

Deng Xiaoping - Architect in tyranny

By Maggie James
Special to the Star

LONDON — There is deep discontent among the Chinese people - political and economic discontent - and in some areas ethnic unrest. Communism Chinese-style is as entrenched as ever in central government control by the hard-line regime in power. The regime claims to be keen on 'reform', but no great changes in policy are apparent and when Prime Minister Li Peng defines reform as 'the socialist system's self-improvement and self-development, designed to demonstrate the superiority of the socialist system,' the government's intransigence is clearly underlined.

One of China's 'old-guard' who is in favour of making the Chinese government more open and democratic - although still far from a western-style democracy - is Deng Xiaoping. Now officially retired from the Chinese leadership, resigning from his last post as chairman of the Central Military Commission in November 1989, Deng retains immense prestige as China's senior statesman.

The late David Bonavia's biography, "Deng," published by Longman Books, is essentially the story of China's political development in the twentieth century. Bonavia, a political correspondent and author, describes the veteran Deng Xiaoping as a walking history of the (Communist) Party, from its beginnings among a leftist group of Chinese intellectuals in France during the early 1920s, through guerrilla commands in China, political controversies, purges, and military victories.

"By sheer determination he pulled China back from the often disastrous policies of the late Chairman Mao Zedong, expelled Mao's closest supporters from their posts, and instituted a relatively modern state, in which the cult of personality was eschewed and a form of limited glasnost put in its place to aid economic and political reform," comments the author.

Admitted to the Communist Party's Central Committee in 1927 at the age of only 23, Deng was later entrusted with the editorship of the Red Army's political journal "Red Star". He also proved himself to be a capable military leader during the Chinese Civil War of the late 1940s. Not afraid to criticise the Party, he suffered political disgrace in the early 1930s. Later, he experienced political exile again in 1957, 1976 and 1977.

This included a two-year period in solitary confinement during the Cultural Revolution. Although he had been a close friend of Mao, instigator of the Cultural Revolution, he was still not immune to political censure during a decade (1966-1976) when no one was allowed to entertain 'neutral' political views.

"The Communists had a way of demoting or marking down for investigation any leading figure who came under suspicion of political deviance. They were often moved sideways to different types of work, presumably to cut them off from any useful political ties and alliances they might have initiated in their previous post. The same musical-chairs

David Bonavia
DENG



tradition has lasted into the 1980s," observes the author. In 1954 Deng became secretary-

general of the Communist Party - a post that gave him real power at national level - and in 1955 he was appointed to the Politburo.

BOOK REVIEW

Although out of favour during the Cultural Revolution, directly after Mao Zedong's death in 1976, Deng Xiaoping returned to power and in 1978 became the country's leader. Despite the fact that Deng sought to create an orderly and democratic society ruled in the

interests of the people, Bonavia says the Party has serious internal problems that are mainly related to generation gaps. And the system needs drastic change. "It is unthinkable that a candidate at a Chinese election should campaign at all, much less on a platform that defies Party policy or suggests kicking the Party out of power. He would not only lose his candidacy, but would also go to jail. As for elections to the Party itself, these are treated as internal Party affairs into which no-one else is entitled to enquire," observes Bonavia. The only unpragmatic element of Deng's thinking, in the author's view, has been his continued insistence on the absolute necessity of socialism. "This," he says, "ignores the fact that the greatest success stories in the de-

velopment of East Asian countries in the period since World War II are Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Singapore, all of which absolutely reject socialism." Deng has shown his resilience in surviving the ups and downs that characterise Chinese politics and Bonavia concludes that in history he may well go down as a greater man than Mao. "As a revolutionary, he may lack Mao's extraordinarily charismatic effect, but over the long term will probably be seen to have built more than he destroyed, whereas it can be argued that Mao destroyed more than he built. Mao was the demolition expert, but Deng is the architect."

Deng, David Bonavia. Longman Books. £19.95. Hardback.



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The Star

Jordan's political, economic and cultural weekly

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Jordan to participate in ILO meeting

AMMAN (Star) — The annual International Labour Organisation (ILO) meeting will convene in Geneva on 6 June with the participation of Arab and foreign countries in addition to a number of international labour organisations.

Jordan's delegation headed by Minister of Labour Dr Qassim Obeidat will leave Amman on Saturday.

The delegation includes Dr Mahdi Al Farhan, director general of Social Security Corp. (SSC), Mr Saleh Tarawneh and Dr Mansour Otum from the Ministry of Labour, and representative of Jordanian labour unions; Mr Mohammad Samih, the Labour General Assembly, Ah-

mad Al Khodari, general secretary of Public Services and Free Professions, Salem Hijzeen, president of Sanitary Works Association.

The delegation will include representative from the private sector; Mr Mohammad Asfour, Abdul Noor Habbaybeh, Ali Dajani, Amin Al Hussein who will participate in the Arab Labour ministers meeting which will take place before the ILO meeting.

Subjects to be discussed will include a report presented by the chairman of the board of directors on pollution. Various other topics will also be discussed especially the monetary status of ILO.

Euro-Arab dialogue to be held in Jordan next year

Amman (Star)—Amman will be the venue for the next Euro-Arab Cultural Symposium, which will take place in the first half of next year, The Star was told.

EC Ambassador in Jordan Mr Christian Falkowski said the General Commission for Euro-Arab Dialogue will meet in Dublin, Ireland, between 7 and 8 June to set the date and agenda of the symposium.

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THE STAR

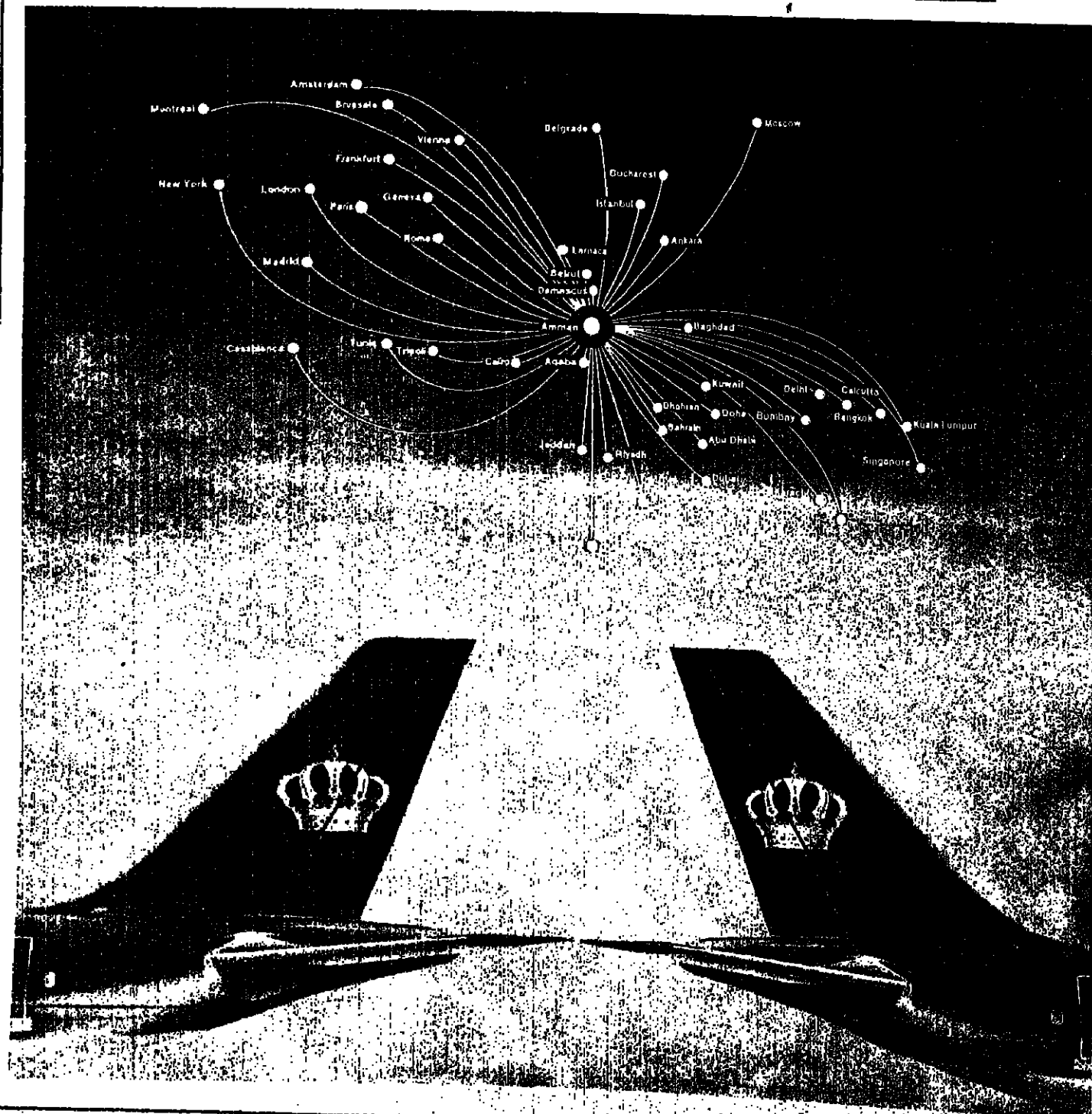
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FOCUS ON PARLIMENT

By Ahmad Al-Husban

● Speaker of the Lower House Mr Suleiman Arar has received a letter from Fatah dissident leader Abu Musa, in which he praised the democratic process in Jordan.

The letter emphasised keenness to maintain national unity in Jordan as means to support the uprising and confront Israel's expansionist schemes.

● A new Parliamentary grouping will be formed soon. It will be a substitute for the national democratic bloc which has been dissolved.

The new grouping comprises deputies who "reject regionalism and sectarianism," Deputy Salim Al-Zubi told The Star.

● Deputy Bassam Haddadin will soon open an information office at Jebel Al Hussein and will issue a periodical which has been licensed in Cyprus on temporary basis until the government issues licenses to publish new newspaper.

● The Supreme Council entrusted with investigating the cases of financial and administrative corruption that were referred to the Attorney General by Parliament, have achieved considerable progress in its work.

The Council, which is headed by the Speaker of the Upper House and specialised in prosecuting ministers, has met twice for discussions of constitutional provisions related to the trial of ministers, especially Article 55 of the Constitution which provides for the trial of ministers before the Council for crimes committed while they held their posts.

SSA to enter Jordan's software market

Amman (Star)—System Software Associates (SSA), the leading developer and vendor of application software for IBM AS/400 and System/3X midrange computers, is introducing its manufacturing and Computer Aided Software Engineering (CASE) products to the Jordanian marketplace. Mr Awni Khali Al Abboushi, Area Director, Middle East/Africa for SSA, will be visiting Amman from June 1 to June 3, to meet with qualified local companies to join SSA's worldwide affiliate network.

BPCS (Business Planning and Control System) consists of 26 integrated products designed to address business management needs in manufacturing, financial and distribution environments. ASSET is an integrated CASE tool developed to serve the needs of programming analysts and software engineers.

Summit resolutions: Firm, comprehensive

BAGHDAD (Star)—Arab leaders concluded Wednesday their three-day emergency summit

and Jewish immigration and considered them null and void. It said Jerusalem is an indivisible

the longest frontline. It condemned Israeli expansionist schemes and threats to Jordan

Al Arab waterway. It also called for guarantees to the security of the Gulf region and to safeguarding maritime activities.

Lebanon

measures against any party that prevents the transfer of technology to any Arab state. An- while the Arab countries call for the removal of destructive weapons from the region, they assess that this can only be done as part of a comprehensive settlement to conflicts in the region.

The summit requested Arab foreign minister to complete amendments to the Arab League's Charter to be presented to Arab leaders during their summit in Cairo in November this year.

The leaders also decided that an ordinary summit should be held regularly in November every year in order to follow up on current issues in addition to extraordinary summits.

The summit also called on Arab foreign affairs, finance and economics ministers to meet within the coming two months to study the Jewish immigration and to submit suggestions for Arab leaders in their November summit in Cairo.

here and adopted a number of resolutions concerning the threat of Jewish immigration to the occupied Arab territories, the Middle East peace process, supporting Jordan, the Palestinian Intifada, Iraq and other resolutions. The final communique was read by Arab League Secretary General Mr Chadi Kleibi.

The resolutions were seen as a triumph to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), which called for the summit, and also to Jordan and Iraq. Observers said the tone of the resolutions were firm in regard to Jewish immigration to Palestine and although none of the superpowers were condemned by name for facilitating immigration, the summit called for a special meeting of Arab foreign, economy and finance ministers within the coming two months to submit recommendations on how to deal with flow of immigrants, to the ordinary summit meeting which will be held in Cairo in November.

Also the summit responded to His Majesty King Hussein's appeal for support and decided to provide assistance to Jordan while considering its national security as part of the national security of the Arab nation.

The Arab countries declared their steadfastness with Iraq in its efforts to protect itself and possess technological know-how. The summit also reiterated its commitment to the Joint Defence Pact and the Arab League's Charter.

Following are highlights from the final communique:

On the Palestinian question

The summit reiterated the right of the Palestinian people to liberating their occupied land and establishing an independent state on its national soil with Jerusalem as its capital under the leadership of the PLO. It also called for providing all kind of material and political support to the Palestinian Intifada. It condemned the Jewish immigration as a violation of Palestinian national rights, and warned of Israel's settlement activities and its ambition of creating a greater Israel. It called on countries directly involved to put an end to the Israeli design and to safeguard Palestinian rights including the right to return according to United Nations resolutions.

The summit called for "re-evaluating" relations with countries in the light of their response to Jewish immigration and national Palestinian rights. It called upon the United Nations to assume its responsibility towards the Palestinians and to form international supervision and to issue a UN Security Council to enforce it.

The statement said that the US is basically responsible for this situation as it is the country that provides Israel with military, financial and political cover for its aggressions.

The summit praised Palestinian and Arab peace initiatives and reiterated its call for the convening of the international peace conference with the participation of all parties concerned including the PLO.

The summit condemned the Congress' resolutions on Jerusa-



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'Not much hope for Jordan's forgotten city'

Jordan's second largest city, Zerqa, is beleaguered with urban problems. Already its streets are overcrowded, its air and water polluted and its youth unemployed and frustrated. The Islamists now control 9 out of the 10-seat Municipal Council. While the mayor's eyes are set on the future, Zerqa's inhabitants point to their city's immediate and dire needs.

But whether the city, whose population is estimated at 500,000, developed into its current state due to the lack of government attention, or to the composition of its population—mostly low and middle class citizens who didn't give much attention to municipality regulations as some of its residents argue—the fact remains that Zerqa is lagging behind.

Apart from King Hussein Street which crosses the city's centre, and the other roads that lead to it, Zerqa road network is in poor condition and has long been unmaintained.

The roads are full of ditches, their coats of asphalt are mostly used up. And while they are dirty and dusty in summer, they "become muddy in winter and large sections of them are flooded with water," says Husam Nayef, a 30-year-old physician who was born in Zerqa.

The city's residents are also deprived of major entertainment facilities and venues for cultural, social, or recreational activities. Consequently, the narrow streets and crowded alleys have become the playgrounds of the city's children while the market place is the usual gathering spot of its youngsters.

"The availability of a number of cinema and coffee houses doesn't make the situation better because they are threats to health rather than being places of entertainment," says Dr Hussam.

Even the Governor of Zerqa, Mr Mohammad Hussein Al-Shoubaki admits that the cinema houses do not meet the standards set by the Ministry of Health and other concerned authorities, but nothing will be done to improve them at the time being as "the Governorate is still studying their situation."

However, these cinemas attract large audiences, mostly teenagers. "And this," says Dr Hussam, "is not surprising because they show low rate films, sometimes even pornography."

The situation is not any better at one of Zerqa's coffee houses which occupies the second floor of an old building overlooking the market place from one end and a Palestinian refugee camp from the other. The place is usually packed with cigarette and hubbly-bubble smoke filling the congested air.

But while the clients of cinema houses are restricted to one age group, this coffee house attracts people from various walks of life — there are the young, the old, the educated and the illiterate.

People sit in groups in the large hall whose only furniture are pale wooden tables and rough iron chairs.

The impression most people have of a coffee house is that it is a "bad place where people waste their time playing cards and doing nothing useful," says an unemployed young graduate of Jordan University.

"To a certain extent, it is true that a lot of people, mainly students, waste many hours here



The streets of Zerqa: A sign of the city's urban decay

thus neglect number of city residents interviewed by this reporter.

The city's new Islamist Mayor, Mr Yasser Al Omari, agrees that such feelings played a role in discouraging people from casting their votes but says the procedure of voting was the main reason why the majority of the city's residents refrained from voting. He says the procedures were complicated and members of one family had to vote in different polling stations, thus making the process very hard.

"We are aware of the size of problems in Zerqa, but there is no achievement with despair," says Al Omari, a bearded mosque preacher who also teaches Islamic "Sharia" at Zerqa's Islamic Cultural Centre (ICC).

He says that his bloc, of which four are members of the Muslim Brotherhood, consider themselves as "soldiers devoted to the service of Zerqa."

However, some inhabitants of Zerqa fear that the new Municipal Council will concentrate on religious matters at the expense of the city's needs and the freedom of other groups there.

"What will happen now is that the new Council will try to build more mosques, shut down alcohol stores, and ask women to wear the veil while the streets will remain crowded," says a Zerqa resident.

"There are no reasons for such fears," confirms the calm and soft-spoken middle-aged Al Omari sitting in his office at the ICC, and wearing the Muslim-style white "thoub".

"The Municipal Council is not a centre for preaching, though there is nothing wrong with seeing the light of Islam shining from the Municipality," he says. "Besides, building mosques is the responsibility of the Ministry of Awqaf though the Council will help when it can. The more mosques there are, the more security there will be for the citizens."

Also, he says, it is not the Municipality which licenses alcohol stores and it is not the Municipality that closes them, though it will like to see them closed.

The priority for the new Council, according to Mr Omari, is re-organising the administrative body at the Municipality.

The second task that the council will undertake is modernising Zerqa's infrastructure plan in a way that corresponds to the needs of the city. This, says Al Omari, includes re-organising as much as possible the commercial area, residential districts, and streets. He says that the Municipality, which suffers no debt burden, will also build public facilities, parks and libraries.

The city now has two public libraries, one for children, and another for adults. Both are located right at the heart of the "souq". It has no public parks at all.

"We will not look back," says Al Omari in reference to reports of corruption against the government-appointed municipal committee that preceded the one from which the current Council took over.

"But if there are some things then it is the right of the citizens to know about them," says Al Omari, assuring that "the city is on the future."

viewed by this reporter.

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EC head in Jordan says the community will triple aid to Med. Sea region Europe to remain open to local products after Single Market

By a Star Staff Writer

AMMAN - Jordanian businessmen should reap tremendous benefits from developments in Western Europe and the emergence of the Single Market in 1992, according to Mr Christian Falkowski, ambassador of the Commission of European Communities in Jordan. In an interview with The Star, Mr Falkowski said the terms of the co-operation agreement Jordan has with the European community (EC) will not change after 1992. Under the agreement, Jordanian-made products enjoy duty free access to European markets and local manufacturers have the same status "as if they were located in Europe."

While Jordanian exports to European markets have started to pick up this year due to "positive changes in the Jordanian economy," Mr Falkowski said there is a need for Jordanian businessmen to identify possible markets in Europe and gear their production towards high-priced exports while maintaining competitive prices and quality control. Between 1988-89 Europe's exports to Jordan fell by 7 per cent while imports registered 15 per cent decrease.

However, these figures cannot be taken at their face value because of the drastic changes in the direction of the Jordanian economy during the last three years coupled with local efforts to curb imports and encourage exports.

"I don't think Jordanian businessmen have a liquidity or capital problem," Mr Falkowski said, but "they have to spend more time and money on attending trade fairs in Europe." He added that Jordan has been witnessing improved macro-economic conditions while maintaining good product mix in terms of manpower, management and good government economic policy.

Mr Falkowski said that until recently the Jordanian economy was favouring imports due to the high value of the local currency. "But this has changed (with the devaluation of the dinar) and as imports became more expensive, manufacturers were pushed to include the added value in the local production by importing raw material and exporting finished goods."

Jordan's co-operation agreement with EC dates back to 1978. It identifies areas of mutual co-operation in trade, economics, science and technology, and financial and technical assistance. In addition to providing duty free access of Jordanian goods into European markets, the agreement gives preferential treatment for specific agricultural products during European off season between mid November and mid February.

The EC has similar co-operation agreements with most countries of the Mediterranean basin and "due to the free access of goods into the EC and the excellent economic conditions in Europe," EC trade with Mediterranean region has grown considerably between 1987 and 1989. While increase in imports from the Mediterranean countries was a modest 3.5 per cent in 1987 it jumped to 25.1 per cent in 1989.

31 MAY 1990

Similarly EC exports to countries of the same region made a sizeable leap from registering 6 per cent increase in 1987 and 16.6 per cent in 1989.

European imports range from agricultural produce to manufactured products, textiles and other goods.

While most of Europe's investment and trade links are with North African countries, the EC, through an investment partner programme, seeks to provide assistance to stimulate and support financial co-operation between European investors and non-European manufacturers. Jordan is being discovered by the Europeans, but it is also in competition with other Mediterranean countries which export similar agricultural products, for example, in Europe's markets. Still Jordan is getting into high quality agricultural products such as cut flowers, asparagus and other.



Mr Christian Falkowski

ple, in Europe's markets. Still Jordan is getting into high quality agricultural products such as cut flowers, asparagus and other.

(see related story on page 9).

Technical co-operation between Jordan and EC has been covered by the Financial Protocol. Since 1978 the EC has provided Jordan with ECU 210 million (about JD 168 million) which was used mainly in the field of education. Of this amount one third was given as grants and the rest as loans by the European Investment Bank (EIB) with interests on loans subsidised by a grant from the commission. The Third Protocol signed with Jordan allocated 40 per cent of funds to agriculture and water, 26 per cent to industries through creditlines extended to the Industrial Development Bank (IDB), 10 per cent to infrastructure and 10 per cent to education.

As to post 1992 EC policies

towards the Mediterranean region, Mr Falkowski said that the commission had prepared a new policy which took into consideration the changing situation both in Europe and in the Mediterranean region. "The commission has put more emphasis on reviving domestic economies as well as on commercial co-operation in order to adjust our future support to specific requirements."

Recently the commission proposed that the EC's Council of Ministers triple budgetary reserves for the Mediterranean region for the period 1992-1996 over the period between 1989-1991. It also suggested that the Fourth Protocol, which will start in November 1991 covering the

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By Kathy McLaughlan
Special to The Star

Western views of the East

Different European artists presented varied views of the Near East from the 19th century onwards, a time when technology was yet to spread the word and the image across the globe



A portrayal of the excavation of the temple of Ramesses II at Abu Simbel by the French watercolourist Louis Linant (1799-1883).

LONDON - How did the West view the East before the advent of modern technology? The simple answer is that there isn't one defined view of the old Orient in evidence during the 19th century.

That makes the subject even more exciting. Western artists approached the East from different backgrounds and with different aims; their interpretations differed according to whether they were English or French, academic, romantic or realistic painters, and whether their work was intended for exhibition or for illustrating a book.

The two countries most closely associated with the Near East in the 19th century, France and England, often represented contradictory traditions: an imaginative or romantic vision of the East on the one hand, and, on the other, a seemingly insatiable desire to give thorough and factual accounts of it.

Delacroix and Ingres epitomized the French artists' use of the Near East as a source of exotic and dramatic subject matter. Ingres, who never traveled to the East, depicted the Odalisque as the type of an ideal, yet voluptuous, beauty, while Delacroix, both before and after his trip to Morocco in 1832, found in an exotic Oriental setting opportunities for vivid evocations of dynamic, and often violent action.

In both cases the Orient offered new scope for the artists' imagination, and a chance to depict subjects which would have been unacceptable in a western context.

from such works were the violent and erotic subjects treated by French Orientalists.

The strange blend of factual detail and wishful thinking which emerged in French harem paintings made no inroads in England, where remote antiquity seems to have been the only proper setting for the nude.

From the 1930s it became

type made by Bartlett.

Though such watercolours tend to emphasise the picturesque qualities of a scene, with rugged cliffs and small, brightly dressed figures as staffage in the foreground, they were also regarded as a form of information. In the introductions to his travel books, Bartlett stressed his desire to improve upon former topographical draughtsmen and give a fuller account of the places he had visited than any previous traveler.

British artists traveling to the Near East commonly viewed their work in terms of a progressive 'scientific' exploration. One intriguing manifestation of this pursuit of facts was the attempt by a number of artists to give a concrete foundation to Scripture through the study of the 19th century Palestine.

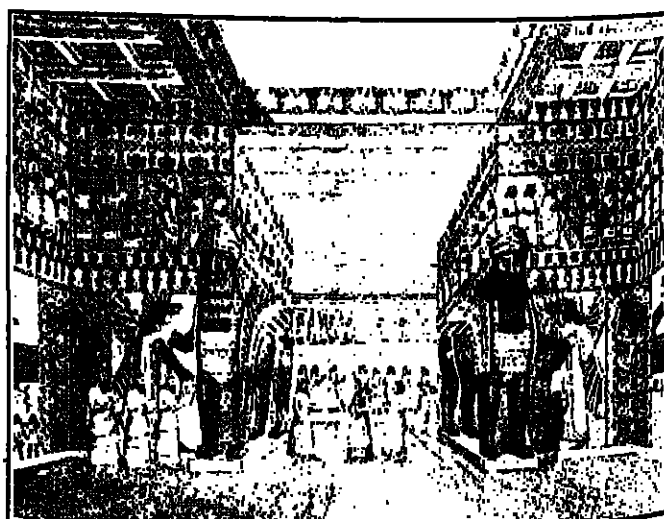
The drawings made by David Roberts during his tour of the Near East in 1838-9 were widely admired for their depiction of the sites of Biblical events. David Wilkie toured the Near East in 1840-41 with the intention of using his studies of its inhabitants as the groundwork for a new type of religious painting, in which Biblical scenes would be shown according to contemporary reality. His death on the return journey to England prevented him from achieving this goal.

Artists could illustrate Scripture from the people they saw in the Near East because it was widely believed that the region's inhabitants were unchanged in habits and appearance from their ancestors of 2000 years before.

The idea of a simple, unchanging society was an extremely attractive one for Europeans. In many ways their attitude to the inhabitants of the Near East paralleled their perception of people living in remote parts of Europe, or even in regional France and Britain. Genre painters from both countries studied rural communities quite removed from their own increasingly complex, rapidly changing environment,

and their paintings enjoyed great popularity. The East was only one source of inspiration in the search for societies which were harmonious and timeless.

Not surprisingly, many travelers complained bitterly about any signs of modernisation. They generally preferred, much like 20th century tourists taking photographs, to censor out evi-



Sir Austen Layard's reconstruction in pen, ink and watercolour of the throne room in Ashurnasipal's palace at Nimrud.

dence of recent development or the presence of other western visitors, and their desire to show the traditions, rather than the development, of the region occasionally resulted in anachronism.

Most artists who visited the Near East stayed for comparatively short periods. Often traveling enormous distances without stopping for any length of time in one place, they did not have much opportunity to make a close study of the societies around them. Frederic Lewis was among the exceptions.

He lived in Cairo as an Ottoman Turk between 1841 and 1851 and seems to have become completely immersed in the life of the city, making little contact with Westerners. The few accounts we have of Lewis in Cairo stress his complete removal from the West, his assumption of

an indolent lifestyle which was supposedly, quite uncharacteristic of a 19th century Englishman. Even without the written evidence, this is the image presented by Lewis in the watercolours and paintings he produced after returning to England in 1851.

Jean-Leon Gerome, who visited the Near East eight times between 1856 and 1874, Lewis included painstaking details of costume and architecture in paintings remarkable for their meticulously smooth painted surface. The invisible finish and careful detail imparted a conviction of the pictures' realism to Gerome's contemporaries. By alongside his careful ethnographic studies are numerous more ambitious subject paintings which focus on conscripts, prisoners, slaves and dancing girls.

His careful representation of the various peoples inhabiting the Near East was often the framework for paintings designed to reinforce certain notions about the East.

The harem nude, treated by Gerome and many other French painters throughout the 19th century, was undoubtedly among the most popular of Oriental subjects, sometimes portrayed as ideally beautiful, sometimes unashamedly erotic, often both.

Exotic and distant enough to evade any changes of indecency, the harem, more than any other subject, offered painters limitless scope for their imaginations, because they could never witness it for themselves.

While English artists upheld

Yehya Al-Bishiri A flair for the unconventional

By Hind-Lara Mango
Special to The Star



Yehya Al-Bishiri

for the young generation especially evening wear. I am not conservative at all in my hemlines, for I like to show off the female body and not hide it." This side of his work is carried

SAUDI ARABIAN born clothier Yehya Al-Bishiri started his artistic career ever since the age of 15 years. At first, he wrote poetry as a means of self-expression, but as he grew older, he found that his passion was fashion for design.

Yehya's first experience with fashion design was in Saudi Arabia where he occasionally drew some sketches to a friend of his who owned an Italian boutique. One of his sketches caught the attention of an Italian designer who offered Yehya \$1,500 for it. This same buyer later convinced Yehya to go to Milano and see what was going on there in the fashion world.

Eventually, Yehya, who was then writing for newspapers, decided to become a career fashion designer. And against the will of his family who strongly rejected the idea, he travelled to France and Italy where he started his professional training. Yehya's father did not help finance his son's education, and Yehya had to rely on his free-lance writings to cover his expenses in Milano and Paris.

In Paris, Yehya learnt to design, cut and sew clothes "but what I hated the most was the cutting part," says the now thirty-year-old designer. During his years of trying to master the art of fashion design, Yehya developed his own style. He tries to give his creations an Arabian aura while still retaining the European cut. This is illustrated in his figure hugging and above-knee length dresses on which are embroidered rich patterns of the Arab artistic heritage.

On Lady Diana's visit to Saudi Arabia in 1988, Yehya took the initiative and designed a dress for her. He knew that she never accepted any designs made by foreigners, preferring to promote British creations, but being a spontaneous person who loves taking chances, he offered his sketch to her. Soon after that, he received a letter saying that the Princess of Wales had accepted his design.

Since then, this energetic designer spends his time flying all over the world to show his work which is partly inspired by traditional Arab dresses. His fabrics being mainly crepe, silk, satin, and chiffon are European. However, he has incorporated in some of his three pieces suits the "Halla" material. This is seen in his creation of a mini skirt with a high waist line giving way to a high collar shirt and matching pill box hat. His works are all made from the same material but has various Halla designs.

Yehya is not the only one to use this material since it seems that many Arab designers are realising the potential of the "Halla" work and are incorporating it into their work.

In order to devise evening gowns for specific people, Yehya Al-Bishiri has to get to know the person. He studies the skin and hair colour, analyses the figure, and tries to decipher what sort of personality his client has. For instance, if she has a humorous character he looks for something that will reflect this facet in what he makes for her. Says Yehya, "I love to make out-fits



File photo of Al-Bishiri's fashion show in Amman in 1988.

out in his own fashion house in Jeddah where he works from seven in the evening and 11 at night.

For the future, Yehya aims to expand his business. Two other boutiques carrying his name will be opened in Dubai and Doha and plans are underway for his own perfume which will be marketed in four years by a French company.

As for his fashion shows, he has had many including one in Amman back in 1988 and his last show was in Paris in 1989. He will soon present his haute couture collection in Cairo and Dubai. The clothes will be based this time on the arabesque motif and Palestinian "Kufiya".

Ready wear is not a line Yehya would like to go into as models are reproduced constantly. He would like to do men's designs in the future, but he finds it hard

blouse of his own design: the jacket was in beige with black geometric prints done in the various shades of brown and light blue. The effect is subtle and quite conservative in style except that his unusual colour combination reflects his flair for the unconventional.

Seventy per cent of Yehya's designs are hand-made and the remaining 30 per cent are machine-made.

"You would have to be quite well off to afford a Yehya Al-Bishiri piece! He states that he only deals with haute couture, and so a dress is never reproduced," says Yehya who was in Jordan on an invitation to appear on a television programme about Arab artists.

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An estimated 84 million women and girls have been forced to undergo some form of female circumcision, and this oppressive practice continues today

The shame, misery of female circumcision

By Hamid Rushwan
Special to The Star

SUDAN - Female circumcision is one of the more harmful traditions still practised in many parts of the developing world. The custom involves removing some of the external female genitalia, usually in a so-called "traditional" ceremony, before the girl reaches puberty. But the practice is better described as genital mutilation, with tragic consequences for the victim.

But female circumcision has been at the centre of debate in countries where it is widespread. Specifically attention has been focused on the harmful effects the practice produces on the health of women and children. It's not usually realised that female circumcision is a major public health problem, an immense burden on the strained health facilities of those countries in which it is practised.

Female circumcision is usually performed on girls when they are seven or eight years old, although some African tribes perform it on infants and other societies on young adult women. It

is usually performed by traditional birth attendants, midwives or an elderly woman in the village with experience (but not any medical training). These women usually have no surgical skill and operate under poor hygienic conditions using an unsterile knife or sometimes a sharpened stone, and no anaesthetic.

The severity of the operation is generally differentiated into four basic types. Type 1 is analogous to male circumcision and consists of cutting the clitoral prepuce (circumferential) to remove it. This is the least drastic type. Type 2 involves removing the glans clitoris or even the entire clitoris; part or even all the adjacent tissues (the labia minora). Type 3, infibulation or "pharaonic circumcision," involves removing not only the clitoris and adjacent tissues (labia minora), but the external labia as well; the raw edges of the wounds are then sewn together leaving only a tiny opening for urination and menstruation. Type 4, which is rarely practised, is referred to as intercision and involves enlarging the vaginal opening by

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Many medical complications, immediate and long-term, arise from this procedure. Bleeding is unavoidable since damage to the blood vessels is inevitable. Shock, both from loss of blood and pain (since the procedure is performed without anaesthetic) also occurs to some degree and in some cases can lead to death.

Infection is a common complication due to the unhygienic conditions in which the operation is performed. Tetanus and septicemia (blood poisoning) also occur and can prove fatal. Urine retention occurs in virtually every girl during the first few days after the procedure. Due to pain, fear and swelling of the tissues, the girl is unable to urinate, resulting in additional pain for her and possible urinary tract infection. Damage to other tissues surrounding the genitalia may occur, including the urinary canal, vagina, perineum or rectum.

Long-term complications can cause suffering for many years. Hardening of the scars (keloids) can cause problems at the time of first intercourse or at delivery. Cysts can develop as a result of

external skin being sewn into the circumcision wound. These cysts can reach a huge size, requiring surgery to remove them, or they can become infected, forming abscesses. Menstrual problems occur often, including retention of menstrual blood because the remaining opening after circumcision is too small to allow adequate drainage.

This inadequate drainage is also responsible for the accumulation of menstrual debris and urinary deposits in the vagina; these can form "stones" in the vagina that cause tears (fistulae) in the tissue separating the vagina from the urinary tract and the bowel, resulting in leakage of urine and faeces which in turn creates many social problems for the women. Fistulae can also be the result of obstructed labour due to the vaginal opening having been nearly closed by the circumcision.

Infertility may occur because sexual penetration is so difficult or because of pelvic inflammatory disease from chronic infection. Sexual problems are common in circumcised women, especially early in marriage, to the detriment of the marriage relationship. Finally many psychological problems as a result of circumcision have been reported including anxiety, depression, neuroses and psychoses.

The origin of female circumcision stretches far back in history and it has been practised in many parts of the world. Today, the practice services primarily in large areas of Africa among a variety of tribes. It is common from the East Coast of Africa to the West, from Ethiopia to Senegal and from Egypt to the north to Tanzania in the south. Excision is also practised in the southern end of the Arabian Peninsula along the Gulf.

Less severe forms of female circumcision have been reported from Malaysia and Indonesia. Some African and Middle Eastern immigrants to Europe and the United States continue to practise circumcision on their daughters in their adopted homelands. In some cases, this has resulted in criminal prosecution of the parents by the authorities in those countries, usually because the child died of complications from the circumcision.

How has female circumcision become so entrenched a custom for those communities which practise it? Its proponents are hard-pressed to produce reasons to justify it.

One of the most frequently offered reasons is that female circumcision is demanded by the Islamic faith. This is not true, as

has been emphasised by Islamic theologians. Still, some people continue to do it under the erroneous assumption. More than 90 per cent of the male respondents in a survey conducted in Sudan in 1983 expressed the belief that female circumcision is a Muslim religious requirement. This mistaken belief is very important to consider when strategies are being drawn up to abolish the practice.

In the same Sudanese survey, 41 per cent of women interviewed said they believed it is a good tradition because it promotes cleanliness, increases a girl's chances for marriage, improves fertility, protects virginity, and prevents immorality.

Female circumcision is a harmful practice that needs to be fought by concerted efforts at several levels, since traditions die hard. "Public education is the first step; this involves using all available mass media. The formal education system is also an important means of exposing the hazards of female circumcision."

Health workers at various levels of the health care system can play a vital part in bringing public education to the "grass roots."

In particular educating midwives and traditional birth attendants about the dangers of the practice and enlisting their help in the campaign to abolish female circumcision can be of the utmost importance since these are the people who usually perform the "operation." One difficulty is that they are usually financially dependent on the practice for their livelihood. Winning their support in the campaign to eliminate circumcision would be a major step forward.

The role of religious leaders is also extremely important in reaffirming that female circumcision is not demanded by the Islamic faith. Women's groups should be involved, since the custom is regarded by many societies as a concern of women.

In the past, laws have been enacted to punish those who practise female circumcision, but these have not proved successful. It is essential that every community in which female circumcision is practised studies the problem carefully and designs a strategy for dealing with it. The fight against female circumcision may take a long time to succeed, but it should be stated now to put an end to the suffering of millions of women and girls.

Hamid Rushwan is a professor of obstetrics and gynaecology at the University of Khartoum.

ECONOMY

The Star

Marketing Jordan's farm's produce meeting its goals

By Pam Dougherty
Special to The Star

WESTERN EUROPE has an unmet demand for \$1.3 billion worth of strawberries annually around eight times the value of Jordan's total fresh produce exports in 1989. Figures for grapes, asparagus, melons, beans, peppers and other vegetables are equally impressive, offering Jordanian growers and exporters, and possibly foreign investors, vast opportunities.

Helping them to take advantage of those opportunities is the task of the marketing development project now underway at the Agricultural Marketing Organisation (AMO).

The project began in 1988 with \$5 million support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) which has now signed an agreement with the Ministry of Planning to provide a further \$1 million.

Kelly Harrison, an advisor at AMO says Jordanian exporters are already interested in the European market. Eighteen growers were selling to Europe during the 1989/90 winter season and three new private packing houses were completed and in operation.

The AMO project also funded participation by Jordanian exporters in the international Green Week exhibition in Berlin in January which led to Jordan's first European orders for cut flowers and the establishment of a flower sellers co-operative.

Overall the 1989/90 exports to Europe should be a "best ever" for Jordan, the only limiting factor for the year being a shortage of good supplies in February, March and early April due to adverse weather conditions in Jordan and heavy demand from the Gulf states.

Jordanian exports to the Gulf have risen sharply again following the decline in the value of the dinar, reaching record levels in 1989, but exporters are aware that the situation could change



again. Kuwait for example is about to spend millions of dollars on irrigation programmes designed to lessen its dependence on imported food.

Europe on the other hand has an annual growth in demand for fresh produce that is greater than all current imports into the Gulf states and the Europeans are willing to pay premium prices for the right product.

Harrison believes the best approach for Jordanian growers is to identify niche markets where they can provide high value crops in off season periods. AMO has now completed screening a list of 30 products already grown commercially or experimentally in Jordan and has identified seedless grapes, asparagus, melons, beans, tomatoes, green peppers and eggplants as targets for detailed study with West Germany, the United Kingdom, France and Switzerland identified as key markets. During July and August AMO plans to hold special one day workshops for each product during which its staff will present an analysis of the market, what level of profits could be achieved and a summary of just what a profitable business might look like. A video will also be shown on suitable production and post-harvesting techniques.

A tentative study on profitability for exports in Europe gives a figure of \$17,000 annual return per hectare of seedless grapes for

which, due to its climatic advantage, Jordan could establish itself as almost the only supplier to Europe between April and early June.

Harrison hopes the exporters can find a number of six, eight or twelve week niches for high value crops. Unmet demand in Europe includes 16,000 hectares of grapes worth around \$1.1 billion and 24,000 hectares of asparagus worth \$420 million.

The prices paid in Europe would in fact amaze the Jordanians who find prices in the local market excessive. In Germany in March this year peppers fetched \$2.62, cucumbers \$1.71 and zucchini \$1.86 per kilo in the wholesale market, well over three times their price in the retail market at home. AMO sees a reasonable ten year target for Jordan of 3,989 hectares planted with specialty crops that could earn the country \$100 million and which would still meet only 3 to 5 per cent of Europe's demand. And with a more determined effort Harrison believes this target could even be met within five years.

Such expansion would require solid capital investment. Harrison estimates as much as \$50-60 million needs to be spent on plastic houses, farm equipment, post harvest handling facilities and transport.

Plastic houses and heating equipment should enable exporters to avoid the shortages that

occurred during February and March this year when Jordan Valley crops were damaged by frost. Better post harvest facilities are also needed to ensure that exports reach Europe in prime condition.

A major problem area continues to be transport. At present most crops are air freighted to Europe but AMO has been co-operating with the Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company of Jordan (AMPCO) and private sector interests on trial shipments using refrigerated trucks. Both a conventional refrigerated truck and an insulated "Freshliner" truck which has both refrigeration and controlled atmosphere, delivered goods to the West German market and according to a preliminary report by AMO were considered "highly successful in terms of produce quality at destination, customer satisfaction and sales price obtained."

Following on the trucking trials AMO is planning a one day "Perishable Products Transportation Symposium" on 30 June which will review the experiences of the past season and look at the prospects for air and

land and for sea freight out of Aqaba.

Unfortunately Jordan's existing stock of refrigerated trucks is old, unreliable and does not meet either the gross weight restrictions now in force in Europe or the quality standards needed to ensure that crops arrive in good condition.

Harrison is increasingly confident however that as investors, both local and foreign understand the potential for Jordan in the European market they will be willing to invest in better production and transport facilities. A team of American agricultural investment specialists has already completed drafts for four investment profiles for specific ventures covering the production of seedless grapes, strawberries packaging and marketing, and possibly production of a mixture of vegetables including tomatoes, green beans, peppers and chillies, and eggplant and a totally new venture for Jordan in the production of non-alcoholic sparkling wine for the Gulf market. Once the investment profiles are finalised they will be made available for investors both in Jordan and abroad.

Turkey denies selling water to Israel

AMMAN (Star)—Turkey has denied news reports that it was selling water to Israel while renewing its call to supply Arab countries with water through the Peace Water Project.

A statement by Turkey's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Ali Bozer, last week, said that "no project exists for the sale of water to Israel by Turkey."

But Dr Bozer said a Canadian firm, in partnership with a Turkish firm, is planning to manufacture huge plastic containers designed to transport water. "They (the companies) have made some contacts for a market research."

It is understood that this joint venture company has made contacts with potential buyers in the region, including Israel, in order to determine prospective buyers," said Dr Bozer.

He said that when the stage of exploitation of Turkey's Manavgat, Seyhan and Ceyhan rivers is reached "priority will be given to meet the needs of Turkish towns short of water."

But he repeated his country's offer to "friendly Arab countries" to supply them with water through the Peace Water Project (canal). He said that his country has not received any positive response regarding the project from any Arab country.

Tourist season: Going strong despite isolated attack

By a Star Staff Writer

AMMAN - Jordanian tour operators, hotel managers and tourism officials have played down the effect of last Monday's attack by a lone assailant on a group of French tourists in downtown Amman on the flow of foreign tourists to the Kingdom.

A statement by the Minister of Tourism Mr Abdel Karim Al Kabarti last week said that the attack "was a spontaneous emotional outburst by one individual (to the killings of eight Arab workers south of Tel Aviv the previous day) with absolutely no indications by any party in the country to harm foreign residents or visitors."

While all of the eight French tourists who were wounded in the attack were released from hospital by Wednesday 23 May, the rest of the French group of 56 tourists continued their tour of southern Jordan. They were accompanied by the Ministry's



Mr Abdel Karim Al Kabarti

secretary general on their visit to Petra.

Ministry of Tourism sources reported that the incident resulted in "few scattered cancellations, mainly by tour operators who do not have significant previous experience in Jordan or the Middle East." Mr Kabarti said in his statement that advance booking for next year remains

strong. Similarly, most hotels contacted by The Star reported few or no cancellations. Mr Jan Heesbeen, director of sales and marketing at the Amman Marriott hotel, said there were no "major cancellations but some French companies postponed their trips for individual guests." He said the attack on French tourists "was an isolated incident and it will not have major effects on tourism."

He accused the international media of blowing matters out of proportion adding that such incidents could occur frequently in Europe "like after soccer matches."

But he said that Jordan must launch an intensive public relations campaign to offset any negative effects that might have resulted. "We should not stop advertising about the country because if we do people will start asking why," he said.

He added that public relations

campaign should not explain or react to what happened but rather focus on what Jordan has to offer. Mr Heesbeen said the Marriott was preparing for a piano concert in Jerash and "we will publicise it worldwide."

He said the damage caused to the hotel during angry demonstrations on Monday "were marginal."

Mr Faisal Abu Nuwar, general manager of the Philadelphia hotel in Amman, said they received only one major cancellation of 50 rooms for four nights from France. But he said the setback was temporary and will pass. "We are still receiving inquiries about rates and reservations from the Gulf and Europe," he said. He expected a good rate of occupancy for this summer. "It will be better than last year," he said.

Petra and Aqaba remained fully booked for this and next week, which is when the season ends. It will start again by the

end of July and tour operators say they still have solid bookings for next year.

The Ministry of tourism reported that it is still moving ahead with plans to licence three new hotels in Petra and several others in the Dead Sea and Aqaba. Resthouses at Pella and Um Qais are also under construction to meet projected demands.

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But female circumcision has been at the centre of debate in countries where it is widespread. Specifically attention has been focused on the harmful effects the practice produces on the health of women and children. It's not usually realised that female circumcision is a major public health problem, an immense burden on the strained health facilities of those countries in which it is practised.

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Infection is a common complication due to the unhygienic conditions in which the operation is performed. Tetanus and septicemia (blood poisoning) also occur and can prove fatal. Urine retention occurs in virtually every girl during the first few days after the procedure. Due to pain, fear and swelling of the tissues, the girl is unable to urinate, resulting in additional pain for her and possible urinary tract infection. Damage to other tissues surrounding the genitalia may occur, including the urinary canal, vagina, perineum or rectum.

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again. Kuwait for example is about to spend millions of dollars on irrigation programmes designed to lessen its dependence on imported food.

Europe on the other hand has an annual growth in demand for fresh produce that is greater than all current imports into the Gulf states and the Europeans are willing to pay premium prices for the right product.

Harrison believes the best approach for Jordanian growers is to identify niche markets where they can provide high value crops in off season periods. AMO has now completed screening a list of 50 products already grown commercially or experimentally in Jordan and has identified seedless grapes, asparagus, melons, beans, tomatoes, green peppers and eggplants as targets for detailed study with West Germany, the United Kingdom, France and Switzerland identified as key markets. During July and August AMO plans to hold special one day workshops for each product during which its staff will present an analysis of the market, what level of profits could be achieved and a summary of just what a profitable business might look like. A video will also be shown on suitable production and post-harvesting techniques.

A tentative study on profitability for exports in Europe gives a figure of \$17,000 annual return per hectare of seedless grapes for

which, due to its climatic advantage, Jordan could establish itself as almost the only supplier to Europe between April and early June.

Harrison hopes the exporters can find a number of six, eight or twelve week niches for high value crops. Unmet demand in Europe includes 16,000 hectares of grapes worth around \$1.1 billion and 24,000 hectares of asparagus worth \$420 million.

The prices paid in Europe would in fact amaze the Jordanians who find prices in the local market excessive. In Germany in March this year peppers fetched \$2.62, cucumbers \$1.71 and zucchini \$1.86 per kilo in the wholesale market, well over three times their price in the retail market at home. AMO sees a reasonable ten year target for Jordan of 3,989 hectares planted with specialty crops that could earn the country \$100 million and which would still meet only 3 to 5 per cent of Europe's demand. And with a more determined effort Harrison believes this target could even be met within five years.

Such expansion would require solid capital investment. Harrison estimates as much as \$50-60 million needs to be spent on plastic houses, farm equipment, post harvest handling facilities and transport.

Plastic houses and heating equipment should enable exporters to avoid the shortages that

occurred during February and March this year when Jordan Valley crops were damaged by frost. Better post harvest facilities are also needed to ensure that exports reach Europe in prime condition.

A major problem area continues to be transport. At present most crops are air freighted to Europe but AMO has been co-operating with the Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company of Jordan (AMPCO) and private sector interests on trial shipments using refrigerated trucks. Both a conventional refrigerated truck and an insulated "Freshliner" truck which has both refrigeration and controlled atmosphere, delivered goods to the West German market and according to a preliminary report by AMO were considered "highly successful in terms of produce quality at destination, customer satisfaction and sales price obtained."

Following on the trucking trials AMO is planning a one day "Perishable Products Transportation Symposium" on 30 June which will review the experiences of the past season and look at the prospects for air and

land and for sea freight out of Aqaba.

Unfortunately Jordan's existing stock of refrigerated trucks is old, unreliable and does not meet either the gross weight restrictions now in force in Europe or the quality standards needed to ensure that crops arrive in good condition.

Harrison is increasingly confident however that as investors, both local and foreign understand the potential for Jordan in the European market they will be willing to invest in better production and transport facilities. A team of American agricultural investment specialists has already completed drafts for four investment profiles for specific ventures covering the production of seedless grapes, strawberries, packaging and marketing, and possibly production of a mixture of vegetables including tomatoes, green beans, peppers and chilies, and eggplant and totally new venture for Jordan in the production of non-alcoholic sparkling wine for the Gulf market. Once the investment profiles are finalised they will be made available for investors both in Jordan and abroad.

Turkey denies selling water to Israel

ANMAN (Star)-Turkey has denied news reports that it was selling water to Israel while renewing its call to supply Arab countries with water through the Peace Water Project.

A statement by Turkey's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Ali Bozer, last week, said that "no project exists for the sale of water to Israel by Turkey."

But Dr Bozer said a Canadian firm, in partnership with a Turkish firm, is planning to manufacture "huge plastic containers designed to transport water. They (the companies) have made some contacts for a market research."

It is understood that this joint venture company has made contacts with potential buyers in the region, including Israel, in order to determine prospective buyers," said Dr Bozer.

He said that when the stage of exploitation of Turkey's Manavgat, Seyhan and Ceyhan rivers is reached "priority will be given to meet the needs of Turkish towns short of water."

But he repeated his country's offer to "friendly Arab countries" to supply them with water through the Peace Water Project (canal). He said that his country has not received any positive response regarding the project from any Arab country.

Tourist season: Going strong despite isolated attack

By a Star Staff Writer

AMMAN - Jordanian tour operators, hotel managers and tourism officials have played down the effect of last Monday's attack by a lone assailant on a group of French tourists in downtown Amman on the flow of foreign tourists to the Kingdom.

A statement by the Minister of Tourism Mr Abdel Karim Al Kabarti last week said that the attack "was a spontaneous emotional outburst by one individual (to the killings of eight Arab workers south of Tel Aviv the previous day) with absolutely no indications by any party in the country to harm foreign residents or visitors."

While all of the eight French tourists who were wounded in the attack were released from hospital by Wednesday 23 May, the rest of the French group of 56 tourists continued their tour of southern Jordan. They were accompanied by the Ministry's



Mr Abdel Karim Al Kabarti

secretary general on their visit to Petra.

Ministry of Tourism sources reported that the incident resulted in "few scattered cancellations," mainly by tour operators who do not have significant previous experience in Jordan or the Middle East. Mr Kabarti said in his statement that advance booking for next year remains

strong.

Similarly, most hotels contacted by The Star reported few or no cancellations. Mr Jan Heesbeen, director of sales and marketing at the Amman Marriott hotel, said there were no "major cancellations but some French companies postponed their trips for individual guests." He said the attack on French tourists "was an isolated incident and it will not have major effects on tourism."

He accused the international media of blowing matters out of proportion adding that such incidents could occur frequently in Europe "like after soccer matches."

But he said that Jordan must launch an intensive public relations campaign to offset any negative effects that might have resulted. "We should not stop advertising about the country because if we do people will start asking why," he said.

He added that public relations

campaign should not explain or react to what happened but rather focus on what Jordan has to offer. Mr Heesbeen said the Marriott was preparing for a piano concert in Jerash and "we will publicise it worldwide."

He said the damage caused to the hotel during angry demonstrations on Monday "were marginal."

Mr Faisal Abu Nuwar, general manager of the Philadelphia hotel in Amman, said they received only one major cancellation of 50 rooms for four nights from France. But he said the setback was temporary and will pass. "We are still receiving inquiries about rates and reservations from the Gulf and Europe," he said. He expected a good rate of occupancy for this summer. "It will be better than last year," he said.

Petra and Aqaba remained fully booked for this and next week, which is when the season ends. It will start again by the

end of July and tour operators say they still have solid bookings for next year.

The Ministry of tourism reported that it is still moving ahead with plans to licence three new hotels in Petra area and several others in the Dead Sea and Aqaba. Resthouses at Pella and Um Qais are also under construction to meet projected demands.

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JABAL AMMAN 2ND CIRCLE
BEHIND TURKISH EMBASSY

Deposit Rates

Euro-deposit rates:					
	US	DEM	STG	Yen	SFR
1 mo.	8.1/16	7.12/16	15.00	7.25	8.11/16
2 mo.	8.3/16	7.15/16	15.00	7.25	8.11/16
3 mo.	8.5/16	8.1/22	15.1/16	7.31	8.11/16
6 mo.	8.5/16	8.9/16	15.1/16	7.31	8.5/8
1 year	8.9/16	8.11/16	14.15/16	7.31	8.9/16
Interbank rates (Jordan):					
Savings accounts 7.5%, Call accounts 8%, 1 week 8.0%, 1 month 8.00%, 2 months 8.25%, 3 months 8.50%, 1 year 9.0%. Lending rate (AAA) 12.5%.					
Dollar:					
	DMK	SFR	STG	YEN	CAN
HIGH	1.6730	1.4120	1.6931	151.00	1.1810
					5.6330

Source: Amman Bank for Investment, Tel: 642701

Arab Finance

Commercial Bank of Kuwait P.O. Box 2861 Mubarak al Kabir Street Safat Telephone: 411001/418060/ 435375/ Telex: 22004/22470 Cable: BANK KUWAIT Activities: Commercial Bank Established: 1960 Financial data Authorized capital: \$75,237,745 Paid-up capital: \$75,237,745 Shareholders: Kuwaiti nationals (100%) Directors: Hamad Al-Hamad (Chairman) Faisal Al-Marzuqi (Deputy chairman)	Cable: GULFIBANK Activities: Commercial Bank Established: 1960 Financial data Authorized capital: KD 17,500,000 Reserves: KD 39,274,280 Shareholders: Kuwaiti public (100%) Directors: Mustafa Sultan al-Isa (Chairman) Khaled Fulaif al-Ali al-Fulaif (Deputy chairman)	Gulf International Bank BSC P.O. Box 3235 Alshaykh Building, 4th Floor Fahed al-Saleh Street/Safat Telephone: 4118541/1586 Telex: 22029 FINANCE Cable: DOWALIKO Activities: Commercial bank/ administrative branch
The Gulf Bank KSC P.O. Box 3200 Mubarak al Kabir Street Safat Telephone: 449501 (20 lines) Telex: 22001 GULFIBK		

Matchmaking

Adly El Masri Factory 6, El Aroussi street Shoubra Cairo Tel: 940221	Carro Tel: 906797
Mirrors El Adly factory 40, Atfet El Namras El Matayan	Footwear Adly Georges Ibrahim Factory 3, El Sahteya Street Opera Square Cairo Tel: 916974 Shirts

This free-of-charge service is available to local and foreign businessmen. To publish your commercial interests in this corner please tear-off this box (do not photocopy) and send with details to: Economy Editor, On-Line, The Star, P.O. Box 9313, Amman-Jordan.

Made-in-Jordan

Product offers from Jordanian exporters:	ure, tables, chairs Contact: Jordan Wood Industries Co. Ltd. (JWICO), P.O. Box 5272, Amman - Jordan, Tel: 798171 Fax: 794672 Tlx: 21404 WOOD JO
1. Drip irrigation products and services Contact: Arab Drip Irrigation System Manufacturing Co., P.O. Box 5474, Amman - Jordan, Tel: 603799/681778 Fax: 603780 Tlx: 22422 ZUBICO JO	4. Door and window locks Contact: Union Locks Company, P.O. Box 476, Abu Alanda - Jordan Tel: 732482/732481 Fax: 742483 Tlx: 24255 PAINTS JO
2. Medical disposable syringes and surgical gloves Contact: Jordan Medical Corporation Co., P.O. Box 20525, Amman - Jordan, Tel: 662438/662448 Fax: 685912 Tlx: 22195 JOMECO JO	Jordanian exporters wishing to list their products in this section are kindly requested to contact the Jordan Trade Association, P.O. Box 830432 Amman - Jordan, Tel: 685603/4, with a list of exportable products and full address.
3. Wooden doors, kitchen cabinets, bedrooms & office furni-	

Gold & Silver

Gold		JD
1kg		8,450,000
21 ct		7,400
18 ct		6,350
Eng. pound		61.00
8g		61.00
Rashad:		
7g		54,000
24ct(swiss)		9,250
Silver		
1 kg		155,000

Money Matters

Average exchange rates on in fils		
Monday 28/5/1990		
	Buy	Sell
US\$	668.0	672.0
£	131.8	138.6
DM	398.0	400.4
SFR	470.2	473.0
FRF	118.2	118.9
YFN	446.2	448.9
(100)		
DFL	352.7	355.8
SKR	109.6	110.3
LIT	54.3	54.6
(100)		
BLF	193.1	194.32
(10)		

Financial Market

Universal Insurance Co.

Established In: 1980 No. of employees: 36 Data/Shares 1988 in JDs Par value/Share 1 Market Value Share 660 Book value Share 638 No. of Subscribed Shares 1,000,000 No. of Traded Shares 722,730 Volume of Trading (JDs) 620,394 No. of Floor Contracts 720 Market value of Subscribed Shares 660,000 Authorized Capital 1,000,000 Subscribed Capital 1,000,000 Paid-in-Capital 1,000,000 Compulsory Reserves 53,640 Voluntary & General Reserves - Retained Earnings (415,883) Shareholders' Equity Working Capital (JDs) 836,951 Fixed Assets 166,657 Current Assets 1,320,115 Receivables 419,743 Total Assets 1,514,987 Current Liabilities 483,164 Technical Reserves 344,692 Liabilities 877,239 Total Liabilities & Shareholders' Equity 1,514,987 Net Sales (Revenues) 805,693 Life Insurance Premium - Marine Insurance Premium 47,552 Fire Insurance Premium 22,243 Motor Insurance Premium 728,529 Accident Insurance Premium & others 7,369 Net Income Before Taxes (279,356) Net Income after taxes (279,356) Dividends Paid/Shareholders -	Source: Amman Financial Market
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Business Notes

Simplify the rules

JORDAN'S ECONOMIC future is in the hands of the private sector. But if the government doesn't make the right moves, things may continue to go slowly. The motivation to invest could best come from the public sector relaxing its rules and regulations.

For example, simplifying tax, banking policies and directives would make life easier for investors and exporters. Government procedures which are easy to understand and follow will save everybody's time and energy. The state has a key role to play in Jordan's development by removing unnecessary regulations and clarifying existing ones. Looked at from the financial reporting point of view, among many others, this will be a blessing.

Once all parties involved - the government agencies, business, and the accounting profession speak - the same language, the potential for growth through increased private sector investment, both from inside the Kingdom and from overseas, will be in place. This springboard for investing must be there if Jordan's economy is to expand, according to Tom Shilon Jr., accounting and auditing sector director of the Private Services Development Project in Amman.

Although some economic indicators in Jordan are now better than they were last year, investment has yet to pick up. And proper financial reporting will help local and foreign investors make the right decisions regarding investment. Here as in other areas, a professional approach by all concerned will be good for the economy.

Industrial Estates

Fine Hygienic Paper Co. Ltd.

Location : Amman Industrial Estate / Sahab
Starting Production Date : Relocated in mid 1988 (at A.I.E.)
Investment Capital : JD 2.5. million
No. of Workers : 260
Type of Production:

- Baby diapers
- Ladies sanitary towels
- Hygienic paper products
- Telex Carbonless paper rolls
- Cash register paper rolls
- Qualitex photocopy paper
- ABC printing and writing paper

In keeping with its policy and commitment to extend its services to all market segments, Fine Hygienic Paper Co. Ltd. introduced recently its new low-priced product line of hygienic paper products, ladies sanitary towels and baby diapers under the trade names (Smile and Lido). This, of course, is in addition to their well established brands sold under the trade names, Fine, Baby Fine, Cinderella and their high-tech new sanitary towels (LADY FINE Trifold) individually wrapped and also plain towels with round edges which they introduced two months ago.

Production covers the local market with exports of about 9 per cent to the United Arab Emirates and Iraq. The company is hoping to expand its exports to Turkey, Cyprus and Greece.

Fine Hygienic Paper Co. Ltd.
P.O. Box: (154) Amman
Tel: 722251.

Shows & Exhibitions

Music fair AMUS

Between 25 October and 28, Klagenfurter Messe Betriebs-gesellschaft (A 9021 Klagenfurt, P.O. Box 220, telephone: 0463 - 56800 - 0) will, for the first time, organise AMUS MUSIC NEWS KLAGENFURT. Wholesalers and retailers of acoustic and electronic music instruments, instrument-makers, non-profit organisations, etc. will be the exhibitors. In addition, special exhibitions will be organised on the following topics: Light and stage and equipment for professional audio studios, as well as film, video and broadcast and AVM - an audio/video exhibition.

31 MAY 1990

Contracts and contacts

TN: Tender Number; TD: Price of Tender Documents; BB: value of Bid Bond; DS: Deadline for Sale of Tender Documents; DD: Date Sale of Tender Documents Begins; SB: Deadline for Submission of Bids; BO: Date Bids are Opened.

- Ministry of Agriculture, TN: 1/90, construction of an earth dam in Ruwashed (Hammad Basin Project), TD: JD 50, SB: 31/5/1990.

- Jordanian Armed Forces/Army's Purchase Directorate, supply of 15,000 kgs of jute rope and 100 tons of raw wool, (2 tenders), SB: 18/6/1990 and 4/6/1990 respectively.

- General Supplies Dept, TN: 118/90, basic materials for printing, TD: JD 15, SB: 11/6/1990; TN: 169/90, stationery and envelopes, TD: JD 10, SB: 12/6/1990; TN: 176/90, computers and accessories, TD: JD 15, SB: 12/6/1990; TN: 184/90, musical instruments, TD: JD 5, SB: 16/6/1990.

- Royal Medical Services, surgical gloves, catheters, disposable syringes and anesthetic, TD: JD 20, SB: 5/7/1990.

- Industrial Commercial Agricultural Co, TN: 6/90, 300 tons of top white beef tallow, TD: JD

10; TN: 7/90, 75 tons of grade one coconut oil for soap, TD: JD 5, SB: 30/5/1990 (all).

- Civil Service Consumer Organisation, TN: 121/90, 200,000 to 250,000 cans of luncheon meat; TN: 122/90, 200,000 to 250,000 cans of tuna/oil; TN: 123/90, 200,000 to 225,000 cans of whole green beans; TN: 124/90, 80,000 to 100,000 cans of diced green beans; TN: 125/90, 100,000 to 150,000 jars of strawberry jam, 50,000 to 75,000 jars of cherry jam, 50,000 to 75,000 jars of prune jam; TN: 126/90, 6,000 to 12,000 units of baby regular and plastic underwear, TD: JD 5 (each), SB: 9/6/1990 (all).

- Ministry of Public Works, TN: 16/90, to complete construction of sports hall in Salt; TN: 17/90, to complete construction of sports hall in Ta'a Al Ali, TD: JD 100 (each), SB: 16/6/1990 (all).

- Public Security Air command, TD: JD 20, SB: 9/6/1990.

- Ministry of Public Works, TN: 23/90, setting up the infrastructure at Aqaba professional district, TD: JD 100, SB: 9/6/1990.

- University of Jordan/College of Dentistry, TN: 14/90, medical

disposables, TD: JD 10, SB: 11/6/1990.

- General Supplies Dept, 140/90, spare parts for medical instruments, TD: JD 10, SB: 23/6/1990; TD: 162/90, fertilizers and agricultural equipment, TD: JD 25, SB: 16/6/1990; TN: 170/90, plastic bags, cards and fence, TD: JD 10, SB: 9/6/1990; TN: 173/90, stationery, TD: JD 10, SB: 11/6/1990; 175/90, Dental Units, TD: JD 25, SB: 12/6/1990; TN: 185/90, Computers, printers and stencil machines, TD: JD 10, SB: 9/6/1990.

- Jordan Cement Factories Co, grate plates for cement mills, TD: JD 10, SB: 24/6/1990.

- Jordan Phosphate Mines Co, TN: 148/90, air conditioner (heating/cooling), TD: JD 15; TN: 155/90, 6' pipes, TD: JD 40, SB: 23/6/1990 (all).

- Arab Potash Co, TN: 26/90, fuel oil additive with flushing pump and circulation pump (diaphragm), TD: JD 15, SB: 9/7/1990; TN: 27/90, ductile strength low alloy steel cortex A plate and low hydrogen W. electrodes, TD: JD 10, SB: 10/7/1990; TN: 28/90, Monel 400 plates and bars, TD: JD 10, SB: 8/7/1990.

- Jordanian Armed Forces/

Europe to remain open to local products after Single Market

Continued from page 5

following five years, should have a budget provision of ECU 1.425 billion from the commission's budget. In addition to this the commission has proposed that another ECU 420 million be allocated outside the protocol bringing total budgetary allocations to ECU 1.845. Another ECU 1.4 billion will be allocated from the EIB's budget.

"It is hoped that the EIB will provide an additional fund to the tune of ECU 3.5 billion to be used for loans to the Mediterranean countries," Mr Falkowski said. This will bring total funds available as loans from the bank for that period to ECU 4.9 billion. Jordan will be one of the countries which can make use of these facilities under the Fourth Protocol. The commission's proposals, which are expected to be adopted by the EC's Council of Ministers in June, "are in contrast to rumours that our focus will be on Eastern Europe," the European ambassador said.

He added that improving economic conditions in South and East Mediterranean countries "is an obligation" by the EC to safeguard relations with these countries and to deal with problems like migrating North African labourers to Europe. He also discounted fears that the creation of the Internal Market in Europe will affect the continent's relations with its neighbours. "In fact the Single Market, the unification of Germany and the economic activity that will follow should bring many benefits to Europe's trading partners like Jordan," Mr Falkowski said.

The EC has long supported the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) programmes by giving financial, medical and food aid. Recently a new EC-UNRWA convention was signed in Brussels for the period 1990-1992 by which the Commission will allocate ECU 72 million (about JD 58 million) for the coming three years as a direct financial contribution to the agency's educational activities in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and the occupied territories.

The EC's food contributions to UNRWA are estimated at ECU 20 million annually. "Between 1972 and 1989 the community's aid to UNRWA was estimated at ECU 429 million," said Mr Falkowski.

In addition to being one of the most important sources of finance to the UN agency's programmes (accounting for almost 23 per cent of UNRWA's funding), the EC follows a direct and indirect aid policy in the occupied areas that is "geared towards improving the living conditions of Palestinians as well as to help them establish small scale productive activities like carpenteries and dairies."

The community offers, through non-governmental organisations (NGOs), credit lines and grants as part of its aim to establish a revolving fund to help Palestinian business in the occupied areas. In addition to this, there is the emergency aid which is mostly medical assistance provided to Palestinians injured during clashes with the Israelis.

MidEast Report

THE STAR 11

Morocco and banks agree on debt rescheduling, austerity measures needed

WITH THE approval of a debt rescheduling agreement announced in April between Morocco and its main foreign creditor banks, the country could become the first Arab nation to have its debt burden lowered as envisaged under the United States Brady Plan.

The agreement, in which the French and American governments reportedly took a strong interest, was preceded by a year of negotiations led by the Banque Nationale de Paris and Citibank of the US.

The accord first stipulates a rescheduling of about \$3.2 billion of medium-term debt, with the interest rate on it reduced to 13/16th of a percentage point over money market rates, back-dated to the beginning of last year. (The current average is 1 and 3/8th of a point over the money market rate).

Roughly 86 per cent of the medium-term debt will be rescheduled over 20 years, with a ten-year grace period before principal payments are due. The remaining 14 per cent will be rescheduled over 15 years with a ten-year grace period.

This rescheduling represents the first time that such an agreement has been reached with the banks before an economic package with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has been agreed upon. Usually, such a package gives the green light in terms of the country's commitment to reform policies and its credit worthiness. The accord, then, is said to represent the banks' confidence in the Moroccan government's handling of its debts.

Following the rescheduling, a three-year economic programme, known as an Extended Fund Facility (EFF), will be negotiated with the IMF. An EFF, in contrast to one-year standby agreements, would set macroeconomic targets for the country over the longer three-year period, thus



King Hassan of Morocco

encouraging a more stable and consistent commitment to economic reforms. Once an EFF plan is in place, the way would be paved for a debt-reduction agreement, following the outlines of the Brady Plan. This would be undertaken with the help of resources from the IMF, the World Bank and official sources, probably including the government of France.

Pending agreement then, a variety of options will reportedly be part of the debt reduction plan. A debt buy-back agreement is one possibility, the terms of which would be set by the Moroccan government. An exchange of debt for concessional bonds is also listed as an option. In this case, the 86 per cent of the medium-term debt would be exchangeable into 20-year bonds carrying a fixed interest rate of 6 and 5/8th per cent for six years - extendable to eight years - returning to a floating 13/16th per cent margin thereafter. The 14 per cent portion of the debt would be convertible into 10-year bonds with four years grace, carrying a fixed 6 and 3/4 per cent interest rate throughout. The banks will also have the opportunity to extend new loans equivalent to 15 per cent of their

existing exposure. The accord reflects both the needs arising from the country's economic performance in 1989 and the approval of the lending institutions with Rabat's economic management.

Foreign trade has been liberalised, with less than 10 per cent of imports now requiring licenses, as compared to 70 per cent in 1983. Most foreign exchange controls have also been eliminated. Consequently, net foreign investment nearly doubled in the last five years of the decade. Morocco is now a member of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). Morocco's Stock Exchange, the Bourse des Valeurs, has recently been opened to foreign investors as well.

The state budget deficit was cut from 12 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) in 1983 to an estimated 4.5 per cent in 1989. From 1983 to 1990, state subsidies for staple foods were halved. Inflation was kept at a low rate, though the 1988 figure of 2.3 per cent was probably skewed by subsidies. Gross domestic production (GDP) rose by an impressive 10.4 per cent in 1988.

Despite these encouraging signs, the economy remains vulnerable. The country is still heavily dependent upon phosphate exports, making trade disputes in this sector potentially quite damaging. It also relies heavily on its trade with France. In addition, Morocco is highly dependent upon the value of the dollar, energy prices, tourism and remittances from workers abroad - all of which are largely out of government control. The public sector continues to be bloated and inefficient as well, adding to strains on the stage budget.

The downturn in economic performance in 1989 illustrates these continuing vulnerabilities.

Our Say

Different tone of voice

THE EMERGENCY Arab summit in Baghdad was convened this week amid speculations that its chances for success were limited for a number of reasons — the absence of Syria, US pressures and internal differences among member states are only few of these reasons. But those who hoped the Arabs would fail in reaching a consensus and taking firm stands in regard to vital issues before them must have been disappointed at the outcome of the summit.

It will take sometime to reap the fruits of the Baghdad summit, because after all when all the leaders have gone home, the fulfillment of obligations and commitments becomes a matter of moral duty and personal conviction, nothing more.

His Majesty King Hussein's speech before the Arab leaders on Monday was more than frank and direct. The tone and substance of the King's words were bold. The King put forward what he saw as the challenges and dangers to the Arab Order as posed by the unchecked flow of Jewish immigrants into Palestine, Israel's barbaric repression of the Palestinian Intifada, its rejection of peace offers and its unabashed threats to Jordan, and the Western onslaught against Iraq's legitimate right to acquire technology and beef up its defences.

But the most important point in the King's speech was not only his call for immediate and committed support to Jordan, but also his stress that the Arabs are threatened by one common enemy. Jordan's legitimate needs are not a question of providing the Kingdom with sufficient means to defend itself against Israeli aggression, but are an extension of the defence needs of the whole Arabs against an "erupting volcano."

Jordan's security is part and parcel of the security of all Arabs, whether rich or poor, on the frontline or on the periphery of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Therefore, Jordan's commitment to Arab security should not become a burden on its stability and survival, but an exercise in solidarity and steadfastness.

What brings the Arabs together today and at this crucial stage of their struggle against Israeli colonialism in this part of the world are not the rhetorical common denominators of history, kinship, religion, language and aspirations. It is common destiny, whether some like it or not. Israel has shown to all that it does not seek to uproot the Palestinian people only, nor is it going to be satisfied with weakening and overrunning Jordan, but its aims and ambitions go much further. It has attacked Iraq and allied itself with its enemies invaded Lebanon and is still occupying great chunks of its south, has allied itself with Ethiopia to upset the stability of South Sudan, Somalia and the southern rims of the Red Sea. Israel's survival depends on its continued ability to weaken the Arabs and expand territorially to satisfy its hunger for land, water and natural resources.

Any commitments made at the Baghdad summit will mean little if they are not the outcome of a firm conviction of the common destiny of the Arabs. Defending Arab rights and their future is not limited to King Hussein and President Saddam Hussein. It is the *raison d'être* of all Arab leaders, and their people, from Morocco to Oman and from Damascus to Sanaa.

And while diplomacy is a key to our relations with the rest of the world — out of the Arab world's desire for peace, stability and co-operation with others — it should not become a stale weapon interpreted by others as a sign of weakness and disunity.

The message of Baghdad should be clear to those who have underestimated the Arabs for so long. Arab security interests are more than legitimate and will have to be met at any cost. And when the two superpower leaders meet in Washington this weekend to discuss "the bare-bone essentials," they would probably notice that the tone of voice echoing from Baghdad this time is different and they would have to listen.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Get it right

To the editor

I enjoy reading your paper every week, particularly the economic and business pages. High professionalism and accuracy are among the things I like most about The Star, which is why I was disappointed when your otherwise excellent "Business Notes" of last week described consultants Short and Cruickshank as "American". In fact they are citizens of Ireland and the UK respectively. I realise we all look the same to you, but please try to get your nationalities right next time.

B. O' Fletcher,
Amman.

Ad Dufour

Arab national security

Jalal Rifai

Sudan - facing famine and fragmentation

By Maggie James
Special to The Star

LONDON — IN 1928, 250,000 people were estimated to have died of hunger caused by war and drought in Sudan. Africa's largest country is no stranger to the adversities of nature. Periodic cycles of drought, famine, flood and pestilence have wreaked havoc on the nation. Now the country faces the prospect of widespread famine once more — due largely to the escalation in the civil war and the obstruction of the ruling regime.

International aid, on which the population depends — especially in the form of food supplies and medical aid — is being hampered by government restrictions. Work permits and travel permits to the interior of the country have been denied to aid workers, food control has been put in the hands of military commanders in place of local relief committees in conjunction with Western aid workers. In addition aid agencies have been withdrawing volunteers for their own safety due to the increasingly acrimonious civil war.

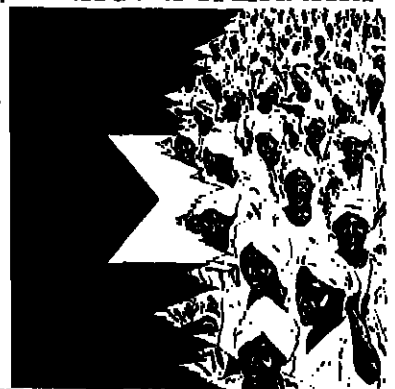
In the escalating hostilities the government troops are led by Gen Omar Hassan El Beshir, who seized power in a military takeover in June 1989, the fourth successful military coup since the country became independent in 1956. Opposing the government since 1983 is the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), which is striving for the repeal of Islamic Sharia law, which was introduced in 1983, and is unacceptable to the animist Christian south of the country. The SPLA is also fighting against what it regards as the political and economic domination of the south by the more developed and prosperous north.

Familiar with Sudan through diplomatic service, Graham Thomas has penned a personal history of the country. Beginning prior to independence, "Sudan 1950-1985: Death of a Dream," published by Darf Publishers Limited, is Thomas' study of events during four decades of close association with Sudan. Shortly after becoming independent from the British-Egyptian condominium in 1956, Sudan's first military regime took power. Civil rule and military rule alternated after that, with the result that the country has known little stability. Discussing the Sudanese heritage, Thomas opines: "The North, arid, and almost without rain, covers almost two thirds of

the country, and probably the same proportion of the population. This area is mainly Arab and Muslim by tradition contrasting sharply with the South.

"This division has, from time immemorial bedevilled the history of the Sudan and despite nearly two hundred years of varying attempts to unify the whole area little progress has been made; it was not an entity, neither ethnically or geographically. Its people were as complex as its boundaries were vague. Some six hundred separate tribes, with no common language, no common identity, and no common culture inhabited this vast territory which for centuries had been left virtually undisturbed."

SUDAN DEATH OF A DREAM



Gen. Kischew, the British officer who led a military expedition to reconquer the Sudan for the British and Egyptians in 1898, was responsible, says Thomas, for the decision to convert Southern Sudan to Christianity, while the North remained Muslim. It has had a perpetually divisive effect. "One of the major problems confronting the administration has always been the integration of the South into full participation in government," he adds.

The second military dictatorship in the history of independent Sudan came in 1969 when Col. Numeiri seized power. Thomas describes him as an arbitrary and ruthless dictator. This time military rule was to last for 16 years and Thomas reports how it was to bring the once vibrant, relatively efficient, and self-supporting country to the abyss of total destruction and humiliation.

After Numeiri's downfall in 1985, it was the turn of civilian rule — against almost mountable odds. Numeiri's corrupt and brutal dictatorship, says Thomas, had virtually destroyed the whole fabric of society and the country's economic situation was desperate.

Thomas asserts that the immediate future must see the resolution of two major problems which are inter-related and most insuperable. "These," he says, "are the settlement of the war in the south and the economic reconstruction for the whole country — north and south. If the Sudanese do not find a unity of purpose and policy for their future, he predicts, there is a serious danger of the country's fragmentation."

SUDAN 1950-1985: Death of a Dream. Graham Thomas. Darf Publishers Ltd.

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The Star

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Opinion

Vocational Training and Jordanisation of Jobs

By Nadia Takriti Kamal

According to the 1987 survey of Health, Nutrition, Manpower, and Poverty in Jordan, 37.2 per cent of the unemployed have never worked before. They represent a sample of recurring unemployment for years after the survey.

A close look at their characteristics reveals that they are mainly a son or a daughter, single and nearly half of them live in Amman and Zarqa. Of particular concern are their educational status: 38 per cent have preparatory education and below, 16.3 per cent have secondary education and only 2.6 per cent have vocational education which implies that people in this category are largely employed or that they are a small proportion anyway. Community college graduates comprise 31.8 per cent while 11.4 per cent have university degrees.

There is a lack in proper balance between vocational and academic education to provide for market needs of labour. Vocational training and education have almost 30 per cent of total student enrollment in secondary education only.

Yet Jordan has more than 175,000 foreign workers—mostly semi-skilled and unskilled. At the same time we have new unemployed labour force entrants annually. Therefore, unemployment is mainly a result of insufficient demand on labour although structural factors have a significant contribution.

In the cleaning services, for example, an estimated 44,000 jobs are manned by foreigners while another 6000 foreigners work in bakeries. The majority of workers in the areas of agriculture, construction, catering, carpentry, gas stations, repair and maintenance and dying are predominantly foreign. The Ministry of Labour has declared a tentative plan to

limit the proportion of guest workers in each sector and to gradually replace them by Jordanians over a period of three years. While the intention is a positive step, it remains only so if it is not followed by necessary and sufficient training of Jordanians to work in these jobs coupled with a vigorous nation wide—media campaign to convince people of the value of vocational

students of vocational training. A community college could be transformed to a technical vocational college that meets vocational graduates' needs without "tawjihi" requirements. Perhaps we should seriously think of a vocational applied university before opening new private academic ones.

(4) A strategic planning system needs to be introduced to determine enrollments, skill levels, training needs for each type worker within each vocational speciality area, to help VTC determine better focus for its programmes.

(5) The military service obligation is detaching vocational students from the labour market and reducing their proficiency to join it after two years, thus aggravating unemployment in this group.

(6) A rigorous media campaign must be launched nationwide to expose supply versus demand imbalance in the labour

market. Also adjustments to the labour law are required to make employers opt for Jordanian workers.

To seriously fight unemployment in the context of promoting vocational training, the following considerations are essential:

(1) Supporting the Vocational Training Corp. (VTC) by allocating a reasonable budget to facilitate its activities, enable it to obtain material and equipment requirements and to recruit and motivate distinguished and experienced trainers and instructors. This would make it possible to offer adequate and intensive short-term and intermediate courses to train people for existing jobs currently occupied by foreigners.

(2) Vocational education under the Ministry of Education must be geared towards more pragmatic skill building. The current set up of apprenticeship is inadequate. It could be reviewed to open up employment opportunities.

(3) Open access to higher education for

market; and to praise the real value of vocational training to society as well as to individuals themselves. Another objective is to change current unfavourable attitudes to female enrollment in vocational training other than typing and secretarial courses but in areas where there is high demand like catering and agriculture.

(7) A key factor that would speed change and make a major impact is a revised labour law. A more comprehensive and better enforceable labour law can make room for thousands of jobs for Jordanians. Strict monitoring of work permits, work hours, overtime pay and social security will make the employer think twice about who to choose to employ.

These are some highlights on the way to better utilisation of our human resources. Perhaps it is time to give this topic the attention it deserves and to properly investigate implications and requirements of a change in our labour policy and adaptations in our educational system.



Strategies for a world hurtling on

The exquisite uncertainty the world is passing through has produced much euphoria, but it can be extraordinarily dangerous.

By Sajid Rizvi
Special to The Star

LONDON — Anyone who attempts to predict the future in the present climate risks getting laughed out of the room. The pundits and other professionals who run the London International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) therefore have taken extra care this year not to gaze too long or too hard at the crystal ball.

Their caution is best summarised by a preliminary observation accompanying the publication of the Institute's "Strategic Survey 1989-90," which is that "the only certainty is that uncertainty will remain the dominant feature."

One cannot recall a year when things went as foreseen or predicted, of course, but the Institute's dilemma in setting perspectives this year is a particular one. At first sight, it seems to stem largely from the rage and intractability of change triggered by Mikhail Gorbachev. A closer look, however, reveals that to be a rather well-worn line. Individuals have influ-



encing those trouble spots out usually was straightforward (with notable exceptions such as Lebanon). The fortunes of surrogate sagged or soared in routing reflections of interpower politics. Causes could be labelled (rightly or wrongly); factions singled out for praise or epithets and weapons sources speculated upon and hypotheses built.

Now it has all become vague, inconclusive and apparently very dangerous. Most conflicts which began before Gorbachev unbottled perestroika and before Reagan/Bush cheerily hopped under its welcoming shadow are still raging and new ones have erupted in that continent of 45-year stability and plenty, Europe.

The conflicts where the superpowers were seen to be "in charge" are rolling on even though the respective rivals insist they are no longer involved or interested. The air is thick with talk of nuclear disarmament but the stockpiles are intact. The powers that now feign non-involvement or disinterest in the so-called regional disputes have not ceased being capable of exercising a nuclear veto.

The IISS observes, apophorically, that the successive revolutions in Europe and have "overturned the political and security arrangements that have existed since the end of the Second World War and brought into prospect a real moderation of, if not yet an end to, the East-West confrontation."

In the pre-Gorbachev firmament, read-

VIEW POINT BY YACOB JABER

Stop the influx

ISRAELI OFFICIALS have recently begun to reveal the estimated numbers of Soviet Jews immigrating to Israel despite an earlier blackout on such revelations. The latest estimate has been put at 20,000 immigrants each month, starting this summer.

In few years, the number of newcomers coming for settlement in Israel and the occupied Arab territories will rise to millions, providing Israel with enormous manpower, and making a peace settlement very hard to reach, thus making way for new wars in the Middle East.

Most of the immigrants will certainly settle in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, a land which Palestinians need to set up a state of their own. There will be no room for such a state unless the influx is stopped or curbed.

The prospect for peace in the region will diminish and finally disappear as a result of Israel's insistence on creating "Greater Israel" which encompasses all of Palestine. Israel then might even look beyond such borders for more land and waters. The future is indeed bleak and hazardous and urgent steps need to be taken now to contain the repercussions of the Soviet Jewish emigration.

It has been reported that the issue of Jewish emigration has been listed as a topic on the agenda of the summit conference of US President George Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. The Soviet Union's position is already known: The Kremlin wants the United States to open its gates to Jewish emigrants. This may help a little if the Americans respond favourably to this request. But it will not avert the long-term dangers.

The Soviets are certainly aware of these dangers but they are reluctant to act. They argue that in the new era of openness, they cannot prevent people from leaving if they wish to do so. This is an argument that can easily be refuted.

The Jewish emigration is not a human right issue any more. It represents a serious encroachment on the human rights of the Palestinian people, and the Soviet Union is morally and politically responsible for such encroachment.

It would be wise for the Soviet Union, in service of world peace, to declare that its doors will be wide open for the Jews to leave to Israel after a peace settlement in the Middle East is reached, a settlement that in the first place involves respect of the human right of the indigenous people of Palestine. Human rights, after all, is a global issue and not merely a Jewish one and it needs to be considered only when the matter does not hurt the interests of other people.

It is within this context that the Soviets must act or they will hold responsible for the grave dangers emanating from such a dangerous influx.

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THE ST

Insight

Dr. Nabil Al-Sharif

Out of the Zionist grip

THE OFFICIAL Israeli brutal aggression on the Palestinians in the occupied territories in the wake of Black Sunday's massacre proves again beyond any doubt that the Zionist state is not fit to control the fate of those people. According to Article Four of the Geneva Convention, an occupying power should shoulder the responsibility of protecting the people who live under its occupation. Israel's behaviour should make it clear to the whole world that Israel is the last power in the world that should be entrusted with protecting the Palestinians.

The UN Security Council session on Palestine should come out with clear recommendation on the issue of granting Palestinians under occupation an international umbrella of protection until the overall issue of Israel's withdrawal from the occupied West Bank and Gaza is settled.

It is because of this urgency that the world received with great optimism the remarks of the US Secretary of State Mr James Baker prior to the UN Security Council session in Geneva that the US was willing to look into the possibility of discussing the issue of sending a permanent UN observer team to the occupied territories.

But, no sooner had the actual discussion began than the US shifted its position, caving in under Zionist pressure and denying altogether that Mr Baker ever mentioned such an idea. The world should work together to awaken the sleeping American giant, and to save the American free will out of the Zionist grip. It is sad indeed to witness the inconsistent American position concerning the Middle East situation.

America's initial position explained by Mr Baker was received with hope and admiration because it marked a departure from the often repeated position of blind support for Israel no matter how it behaved. It was also an important position because it brought to the limelight the whole issue of Israel's incapability of acting as protector for the Arab people under its occupation.

It was also a clear admission on the part of the United States that the status quo in the occupied territories should not be allowed to continue. The world should intervene to alleviate the suffering of the Palestinian people.

Regrettably, America's determination to live up to its moral responsibility was short-lived. Before discussing the protection of Palestinians, we have to free the will of the United States from Zionist domination. It is a matter of priorities.

Lebanese TV's mindless war of words

By Mounir Abboud
Special to The Star

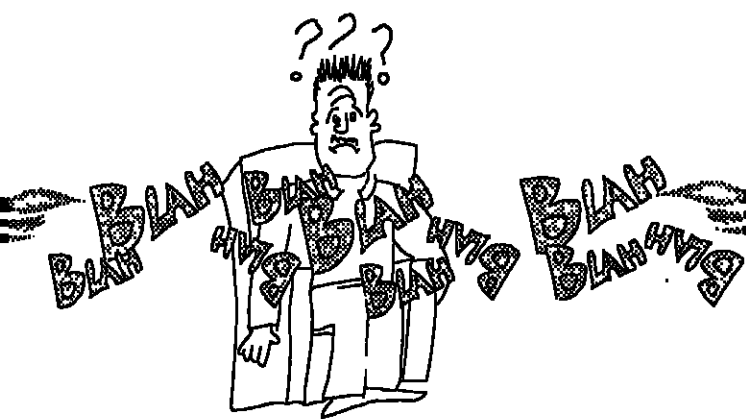
The fighting in East Beirut between Christian factions has spread to the respective TV stations. A war of words broadcast by Christian militia and rival army factions is the latest escalation in the conflict.

BEIRUT — Lebanon's Christian warring factions have taken their conflict to every home by using television screens for an acrimonious war of words. Viewers have been told by rival stations, for example, that the Lebanese Forces militia commander Dr Samir Geagea and opposition Christian army chief Gen. Michel Aoun were each suffering from mental and nervous disorders.

Thirty-eight-year-old Dr Geagea had not been seen or heard in public for several days. "We have learnt from reliable sources that Geagea has been sent to a mental institution after suffering a nervous breakdown," an excited announcer on Gen. Aoun's Channel 5 television station reported. But the Lebanese Broadcasting Corp. (LBC) operated by the Lebanese Forces militia, quickly refuted the report with a brief interview with Geagea as he shared dinner with his followers at a militia base. The reason he had dropped out of sight was because he was touring the positions of his forces in the mountains northeast of Beirut. Geagea snapped: "I said it before and I say it now, Aoun is a big liar."

Later in the day LBC led its evening news bulletin with the anchorman asking: "Who is the crazy man?" and followed up the question with a report purporting to show that 54-year-old Gen. Aoun had had nervous breakdowns on two occasions during his long career as an army officer.

Aoun and Geagea have for the past three months been locked in a bitter and bloody feud for control of 800 sq km making up the Christian enclave, north of Beirut. The inter-Christian violence, the worst since the Lebanese civil war broke out 15 years ago, is often called the "mad war" by the community's leading politi-



cal and spiritual figures.

Aoun, who controls the 15,000 strong Christian half of the national army says there can be no dialogue with the militia until Geagea is removed from the scene. Geagea in turn wants Aoun out of the presidential palace in the Christian suburb Baabda where he has been entrenched for over 18 months, and boasts that despite strenuous efforts Aoun has failed to dislodge 10,000 militiamen from two thirds of the enclave.

Salvos from the war of nerves are directed mostly at the two leaders. LBC interrupts its regular programmes to broadcast composite films taken from the numerous news conference held by Aoun. The words uttered by Aoun often sound contradictory and the LBC caption questions the general's credibility. Recently, a song entitled 'Oh, General' has accompanied the LBC footage. In the same way Channel 5 ridicules Dr Geagea. A film shown opens with Geagea raising his arm holding a flaming torch and what follows are scenes of flames igniting residential areas and public buildings.

There is also wide publicity for the army and militia. On Channel 5, the words "The army is the protector of the people" are flashed on the screen and soldiers are shown bursting out of

hidden corners to shoot dead a grenade-wielding gunman. LBC's propaganda depicts steel helmeted militiamen loading a 15-millimeter Howitzer gun or multi-barrelled rocket launcher, with the sound track describing "resistance fighters."

As one Lebanese press commentator said, "The message both sides are giving us is that their conflict will be settled only by fire and steel, but the people have had enough of violence and all they want is peace."

While the gun battles are waged by bearded, often dirty looking men, the TV propaganda war is launched by beautiful young women and well-groomed men. Two women, one blond and one brunette, join two well-dressed anchormen on Channel 5 to present Aoun's point of view. Similarly militia publicity is played out by attractive female and male announcers. The news is always editorialised and the nightly bulletins have no time limit — sometimes running between one and two hours.

Television has become a main instrument in the intercommunal warfare because it offers the only entertainment for Lebanese who are afraid to go out after dark. When the fighting heats up, the antagonists try to knock enemy stations off the air. Shortly after the inter-Christian clash-

es first broke out, LBC was blacked out for nearly a week after its main transmitter in a Christian heartland was destroyed by Aoun's gunmen. During recent large-scale artillery exchanges militia bombs rained down on a building housing Channel 5 in the East Beirut quarter of Hazmieh. The building was destroyed and the station now transmits from a temporary location under the debris.

The war on the television screens has now replaced favorite soap operas and as daily Knots Landing and Dynasty, by the way, suggests that Rushdie's is a reason of the Islamic and that the Western world equate such reason with punishment can be implied.

Mani, a writer and a novelist from Kenya, is a good Muslim, like other faithful Muslims around the world, reacts indignantly to Salman Rushdie's blasphemous novel 'Satanic Verses'. His argument is based on reason and logic, not emotions. In his published in the Third Quarterly, Mazrui was able to take Rushdie's blasphemous attacks against Islam and its prophet through sensible discussion appeals to the Western

miracles is, quite simply, that it is the word of God. "In the eyes of Muslims, Salman Rushdie's blasphemy does not lie in his saying that the Qur'an is the work of Muhammad, but in his suggestion that it is the work of the Devil. By using the term 'Satanic Verses', he refers to more than an alleged incident in the history of Islamic revelation. Rushdie suggests that Muhammad is incapable of distinguishing between inspirations from the angel and inspiration from a devil. Rushdie gives the prophet a name which Rushdie himself describes as 'The Devil's synonym: Mahound'."

Rushdie's allegations are worse than suggesting that John Milton did not write Paradise Lost. It is worse than alleging that what Americans take to be their constitution consists of bastardised passages inserted by mischievous scribes still loyal to King George III of England.

"Americans regard deliberate stepping on their flag, or purposefully urinating on the star-spangled banner as sacrilege. Each verse of the Qur'an is like a flag to a Muslim. Has Salman Rushdie deliberately urinated on the Holy Book? Has he defiantly defecated on the equivalent of a thousand spangled banner?" Mazrui harshly criticises Rushdie for his filthy allegations against the prophet's wives. They are a prostitution of the reputations of twelve innocent and respectable women. And had these women been alive Western laws would have protected their reputations, but being deceased for so long, Western law offers no sanctuary.

"The real equivalent of comparative blasphemy would be in portraying the Virgin Mary as a prostitute, and Jesus as the son of one of her sexual clients. Also comparable would be any novel based on the thesis that the twelve apostles were Jesus' homosexual lovers and the last supper was their sexual orgy. It would be interesting to speculate which ones of the leading Western writers would march in a procession in defence of the 'rights' of such a novelist."

Censorship is common practice in the Western world. All Western protestations of freedom of speech are contradicted daily by censorship on Western mass media.

"In Britain elaborate efforts have been made by the Thatcher government to stop or discourage journalists from interviewing so-called Northern Ireland 'terrorists'. Margaret Thatcher has argued that publicity is the oxygen of terrorism. Is that different from saying that democracy is the oxygen of terrorism?"

Books have also been censored in Britain. Peter Wright's book 'Spycatcher' was chased by Margaret Thatcher's government in different parts of the commonwealth in a bid to have it banned.

The writer comes in defence of Ayatollah Khomeini's death sentence on Salman Rushdie. It was the openness with which the sentence was declared that upset the Western world. If Western countries want to kill somebody in another country, it becomes part of a covert operation. The central intelligence agency or MI5 may take the initiative. The Israelis may fly all the way to Tunis and kill somebody in his bed. The writer relates how Israel signalled its resignation at the Middle East's strategic chessboard. By withdrawing troops from but not quite leaving Afghanistan, it snapped open a Pandora's box of regional, inter-nuclear, feudal conflicts.

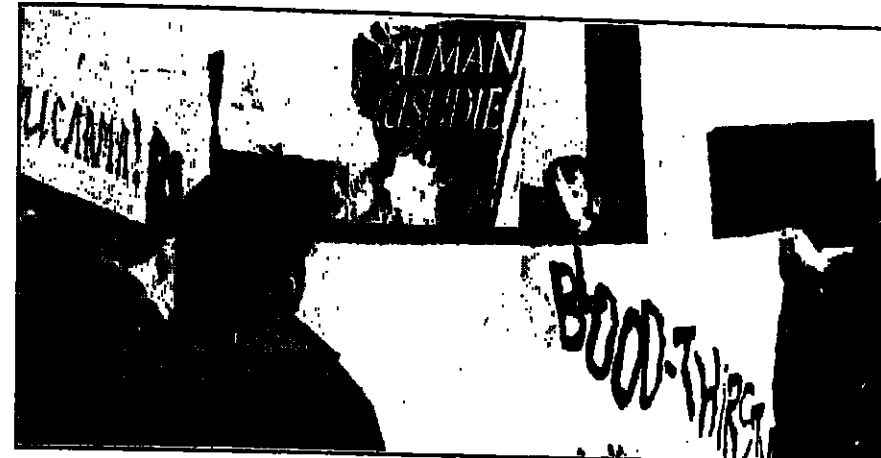
If the United States seems to get off easily in this accounting after the events, it is because Washington hasn't undone — just as it hasn't done — anything of note in the area. The constant themes of its policy in the Middle East or South Asia, even before the bow-out by Gorbachev, were challenged less by Soviet objectives than by the realities on the ground, the infidelity of the Palestinians in the occupied territories, the 'democratisation' in Pakistan, the consolidation of the indigenous regime in Kabul and the change of government in India.

Sajid Rizvi is the Managing Editor of Academic File.

The moral dilemmas of the Rushdie affair

An analysis of the 'Satanic Verses'

By Ali A Mazrui



Burning the Satanic Verses in Yorkshire: Muslim outrage is still bewildering the West

Mani, a writer and a novelist from Kenya, is a good Muslim, like other faithful Muslims around the world, reacts indignantly to Salman Rushdie's blasphemous novel 'Satanic Verses'. His argument is based on reason and logic, not emotions. In his published in the Third Quarterly, Mazrui was able to take Rushdie's blasphemous attacks against Islam and its prophet through sensible discussion appeals to the Western

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acted in the case of the Israeli nuclear scientist, Vanunu. The Israeli secret service kidnapped him abroad and then subjected him to a secret trial for treason. He was enticed to Rome by a woman who presented herself as an American student, and was offered sex at her sister's apartment. Vanunu was given an injection, kidnapped and taken to Israel. He was sentenced to eighteen years imprisonment for treason, espionage and revealing state secrets.

But the Iranians have not been as sophisticated as the Israelis. Otherwise, they would have enticed Salman Rushdie to international waters, and then kidnapped him for a secret trial in Tehran.

Rushdie has been sentenced to death in absentia by Ayatollah Khomeini. But Rushdie is still alive, while causing the death of twenty people in the subcontinent where he was born.

Did Rushdie really fail to see that what he had written could provoke violent demonstrations in the Indian subcontinent, or did not he care? The writer asks.

Had the 'Satanic Verses' been published in India, casualty numbers would have increased tenfold. Part of the price of having the world transformed into a 'global village' is that incitement can become transnational. The west is used to destabilisation by remote control — from incitement to collective violence. The USA could destabilise Salvador Allende's Chile, and have the incitement confirmed by President Ford and Secretary Henry Kissinger. Mazrui mentions the Holy Book of the Qur'an as the target of Salman Rushdie's in-

vestive. It was that great book which has helped to turn the world into a global village. It is the Qur'an, the triumph of durability. It's history's most widely read book in its original language. Every day millions of believers read or recite it across the globe. Every second its words are on somebody's lips, somewhere on earth.

Rushdie's book has been a lethal weapon. The Satanic Verses could be the most divisive book in world politics since Hitler's Mein Kampf. While Hitler's book was anti-Jewish, the 'Satanic Verses' is anti-Muslim, and while Hitler had political aspirations, Rushdie's ambitions seem to be basically literary and mercenary. But fundamentally the two books are works of alienation and basically divisive in intent and in impact.

The 'Satanic Verses' may not be as racist as Mein Kampf, but there is an undercurrent of xenophobia in both books. The two books are also anti-Semitic, but directed at different sections of the Semitic peoples. While Hitler was primarily anti-Jewish, there is an undercurrent of anti-Arabism in Rushdie.

Finally, what is behind Muslims' reaction to Rushdie's 'Satanic Verses'? "Westerners have been busy looking for motives behind the reaction of Muslims: Was Iran's reaction due to a battle between moderates and hardliners? Was Rajiv Gandhi counting the Muslim vote in India? Was Benazir Bhutto in Pakistan being undermined through Rushdie? Western political speculators are hardly interested in Rushdie's own motives. However, Muslims are more mystified by the author's motives than by those of the demonstrators in the streets of Dacca or Karachi. Westerners find it hard to understand the anger of the demonstrators and the government bans. Muslims find it hard to understand what they regard as the author's treachery. And yet was it motive enough for cultural treason that the author was reportedly paid advance royalties of over \$800,000 to parody Islam?"

The writer concludes by suggesting that Rushdie needs to be cursed and not sentenced to death: "But when all is said and done, Muslims should appeal for the death sentence to be lifted from Salman Rushdie. If really necessary, the spiritual sentence of a curse rather than the physical sentence would be more appropriate. Better still, leave Salman Rushdie to Heaven! Yes, ban the hate literature if need be, but love the author as a fellow human being. After all, the first word ever revealed of the Qur'an was 'Read' (Iqra)."

"Read in the name of your Lord who creates men from a clot. It is He who teaches by means of the pen. Teaches man what he does not know."

Islam is a religion born out of the imperative to read. In the spirit of that verse, Muslims should respond by celebrating the written word."

Sajid Rizvi is the Managing Editor of Academic File.

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By Sophia Morolin
Special to The Star

The aid fiasco in the Sahel

LONDON — Another boring sob story about Africa? Perhaps. But why not if the international aid agencies keep making the same mistake over and over again? In the Sahel their performance has been little different from the mess left in other parts of Africa, where millions are now the victims of widespread hunger, dislocation and disease.

In the Sahel the impact of the relief and development agencies' policies — or follies — on the region's 50 to 60 million people has been considerable because the aid flows are probably the only consistent source of money for the region's development. But this impact has also been many sided, as a new report by the London-based Minority Rights Group (MRG) reveals.

Increased aid has led not only, or merely, to increased corruption, but more importantly to the consolidation of the power of foreign technocrats," says the report's author, Nigel Cross, director of SOS Sahel International, a voluntary organisation which is

active in the area. A mutually supportive alliance has emerged between Sahelian bureaucracies and international aid bureaucracies.

"It is an alliance that does not yet appear to have increased the effectiveness of either sector, if judged in terms of sustained increases in agricultural production or from the level of the village or pastoral camp," he says in the report entitled 'The Sahel: The Peoples' Right to Development'.

For example, Bamako in Mali boasts a new airconditioned forestry department, built with bilateral aid funds, while the rural areas of the country still lack experts or workers who can help increase the forest. The World Bank has acknowledged that "millions of dollars have been siphoned off to private bank accounts outside Africa" while common Sahelians still have to struggle for basic amenities.

In the Gambia, a British aid

agency was accused of buying up the best talent in the civil service, and running a "country within a country and abuse of funds for expatriate salaries is legion. It costs as much as \$70,000 a year to have one aid official in the field, at the expense of the recipient country, while it's common for civil servants and government officials to play one agency off another with further cost to the aid programme.

With the total debt of the Sahelian region, comprising Burkina Faso, Chad, Ethiopia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Somalia and Sudan, 2000 per cent higher than what it was in 1970, annual repayments now consume more than a third of aid receipts.

Changes in economic policies, forced on the debtors by the rising debt burden, have added to the general misery. "Structural adjustment has undoubtedly led to greater inequalities between the not-so-rich and the poor, and

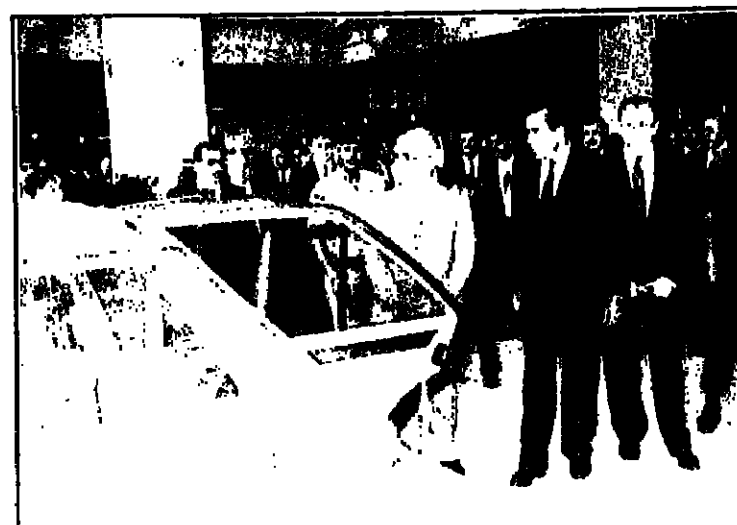
between men and women," observes Cross.

Pricing policies and increased aimed at increasing agricultural production have been focused on export crops, benefiting the export farmers at the expense of the multitude of subsistence producers with limited land or resources. Many of the latter have lost their farms as a result to becoming wage labourers.

Cross says it's by no means certain that structural adjustment will work in the Sahel. "The danger is that the conditions imposed by the donors will be nothing, or worse than nothing, for the poor, who will, as a result, pay the highest price for their food and medium-term necessities."

He recommends that donors and creditors need to do two things: enable the unemployed and poorest groups, nomads and farmers, to participate fully in the development process and revise their current strategies to do so. The Sahelians are not happy as they are now.

Academic File



King launches JD 3.5 million Mercedes centre

● Amman (Star) His Majesty King Hussein inaugurated Saturday the new Mercedes-Benz sales and service centre at Sahab.

The centre was established on a 24,000 square metre plot of land and is comprised of a number of buildings including the administration, sales and exhibitions, spare parts service section with an area of 4,800 square metres which can accommodate 60 cars and 16 medium to heavy commercial vehicles at any one time, body and paint section, fully equipped restaurant and training centre.

Mr Nadim Gargour of Gargour and Fils Co. said the centre had cost around JD 3.5 million. Earlier in the day a seminar of safety on Mercedes-Benz cars was held at Jordan Intercontinental hotel. The opening ceremony was attended by HRH Prince Abdullah, Chief of the Royal Court Sharif Zeid ben Shaker, HRH Prince Ra'ad ben Zeid, and a large audience of invited guests.

● Saying goodbye to Jordan next week, but definitely not for good, are Lars and Brigitta Lonnback, the Swedish ambassador and his wife, after a "stimulating" three and half year term in Jordan. "We will no doubt come back here for visits," assured the Lonnbacks.

According to Mrs Lonnback, the most significant role he played during his tenure was during the involvement of his government in Middle East peace negotiations with the PLO, and the attempts to stimulate the peace process and push the concerned parties for dialogue. The highlight of Mr Lonnback's career in Jordan was the royal visit of the King Gustav and Queen Sylvia of Sweden to Jordan last year. He was also engaged in the several meetings that took place between Swedish and Jordanian officials on matters relating to trade, culture and medical expertise.

At their home in Jabel Amman - 200 meters from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Mr and Mrs Lonnback have always been keen on hosting politicians, writers, artists and other young men and women both Arabs and Swedish, to discuss topics of mutual interest and enhance cross cultural experiences.

"One of the main roles that our small embassy played", says Mr Lonnback, "was to bring people together to talk and exchange views." Listing a few of the literary gatherings that took place at his residence, the most recent of which was dedicated to Nabeed Mahfouz, the Egyptian Nobel prize winner, the Lonnbacks



The Lonnbacks at home: Happy Jordan memories

hosted Jordanian poet Abdul Rahim Omer who recited some of Mahfouz's works.

Mrs Lonnback, who is the president of the Diplomatic Women's Club, says her most enjoyable activity here has been to host and guide visiting friends around Jordan's tourist places and explore the unique archaeological sites.

During their leisure time the Lonnbacks visit exhibitions, read, listen to music, and enjoy long walks around the neighbourhood. "Spring is magnificent in this country," says Mrs Lonnback, marvelling at Jordan's spring flowers and the variety of beautiful fragrances.

One of the Lonnbacks' hobbies is choir singing. "This is something for which the Scandinavians are famous," says Mr Lonnback, noting that he and his wife engage in such activity twice a year; on Santa Lucia Night, and spring time. This year, Mr and Mrs Lonnback

joined the Scandinavian community at the Scandinavian forest on 30 April to celebrate spring time. The 200 member Scandinavian community lit a bonfire, sang, danced and ate, in celebration of spring time.

In July the Lonnbacks are moving to Denmark, where Mr Lonnback will be appointed as minister at the Swedish Embassy.

The Star wishes them a happy stay at their new post.

● On the occasion of the 41st anniversary of drafting the German constitution, the German embassy in Amman, in co-operation with Marriott Hotel and Lufthansa, German Airlines, held a German day at Kan Zaman folklore village on Sunday. Traditional German food and pastries were served and guests were entertained by live jazz music. Video and puppet shows kept the children entertained throughout the day.

Scrapbook

A bee and a fly

I WAS picking up some dead leaves few days ago when I received a real painful sting in my palm. At first I thought it was a piece of glass, or a thorn or a pin that hit me. But, when I consciously, threw away what I had collected with my left hand, I saw a bee. The bee was dying, and the pain in my palm was getting worse. Still I thought of what I could do to save the bee, which produces honey, but the bee had to go.

For few days I thought of what happened. I also learned that a bee's life ends when it uses its one and only sting. Thinking of this kamikaze approach to life, I convinced myself that there has to be a certain divine wisdom behind this phenomenon. When threatened by an imminent danger, the bee has to die to protect its own race.

I for one, will never touch a bee again, unless there was some kind of assurance that "IT" understood my real intention! Those reflections led me to wonder about other creatures, such as flies!

I never met or heard of a person who liked flies or even tolerated their buzzing wings. But let us think, for a moment, how many people here in Jordan and all over the world, live from the sheer existence of flies and of many industries that their fortunes in just inventing ways to exterminate these creatures.

There are factories, employing hundreds, may be thousands of chemists and others, who do nothing, except discovering and improving killing pesticides. There are the cans makers, the work designers, the advertisement agencies who spend many days and nights to come up with a convincing ad, that this particular pesticide is the most devastating one, etc. etc.

Anyhow, we all know that before the invasion of modern technology, there have always been flies, cockroaches and other annoying small creatures. How did our ancestors cope with them? May be they did not have much choice, except to use a fly-buster, or to learn the virtue of sanitation, and may be some cases to put garbage in some special containers.

I am still wondering how many other apparently useless creatures there are in this world, that directly or indirectly contribute to the over all welfare of the super creature.

Salim Ay



● Yousef Khasho's new Jordan Academy of Music has had its end-of-semester exams between 26 and 30 May. If successful, one-year preparatory course, these students will go on to start their BA in music.

Picture left to right: Foad Malhas, Ceri Jones, Natasha Mihyar, Caroline Suhad Ibrahim, Manar Rabadi, Abeer Beeno, Mohammed meel, Mohammed Mannoun, Munther Surur, Walid Omar Qablan, Nofal Khasawneh, Fadi Ghoul, Walid Alkaser Jaber, Irena Sharpan (conductor).

● A delegation from the National Defence College (NDC) of Canada arrived in Jordan 27 May on a three-day visit. The 51 member group and is led by Maj. Gen. Andrew G. Christie, commandant of the College.

The NDC was founded in 1947 and is located in Kingston, Ontario. Its purpose is to prepare military officers, government officials and private sector executives to serve in senior appointments which require an understanding of the political, economic and military factors which affect domestic and foreign policies.

As part of its international study programme, the College visits selected countries in North and South America, Europe, the Middle East, Asia and Africa to

examine at firsthand the major strategic importance of the Middle East, including those of the Middle East disarmament, East West relations and how they affect the community.

While in Jordan, the members were briefed on the Middle East peace process and Canadian bilateral relations.

Leaving Party Celebrating Drop is a... People's... Amman Jordan

Colonial Hong Kong: British lament changing of the guard

By Simon Winchester
Special to The Star

THE TINY territory of Hong Kong, a city-state that hangs teardrop-like to the immense underbelly of China, has long thrived upon its own optimism. Everyone in this, the last great British colony, is praying that the Chinese Year of the Horse, not quite halfway through, will ultimately bring better times to the 6 million who live and labour there.

The rather stuffy, but essentially fair-minded Britons who have ruled for the last 150 years are to be replaced by a regime who, as last June showed, barely hesitates before bringing out the tanks and the bayonets. The Hong Kong Chinese, legatees of a century and a half of relative freedom, do not relish this prospect one bit.

They are now showing their distaste by leaving at the rate of 2,000 every week. There is in consequence a growing apprehension that the Hong Kong which China will absorb at midnight on June 30, 1997, will be an empty shell, worthless, run-down, merely a relic memory of all its former glories.

In view of all this gloomy forecast, why, given the temptations of Japan, or Thailand, or Korea, should one bother to land at Kai Tak airport at all and to venture into a territory that is on the edge of so deep a precipice? To which I would reply: Those who are wise enough to make that long trek across the Pacific Ocean to visit Hong Kong now will be among the last in the world to catch the unique and peculiarly Victorian Imperial magic of the place, to see all of its many colonial splendours before the lights begin to dim and the music begins to slow.

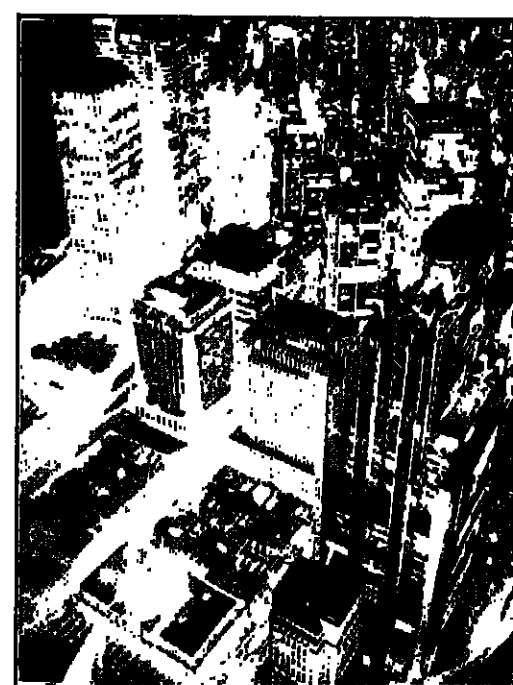
It is the suddenness with which it appears that is most staggering of all. You are flying in from the north, across the less flatlands of central China; or from the west, and the endless mountain ranges of Burma and Kunning; or from the east, and the limitless reaches of the Pacific - and there, in an instant, soaring into the sky from scores of green and rockbound islands, are tens of thousands of enormous buildings, gleaming in their newness, glittering with lights, connected by arcs roadway and rail,

or by skeins of ferryboat wakes or hovercraft trails. Even from two miles up the place bustles and pulsates with a life that is wholly absent from its surrounds.

You will have planned your visit sensibly, of course, arriving

Travel

when the weather is cool and delightful between November and March, or dressed appropriately for the steaming furnace that is the long Hong Kong summer. You will have come with a sizable wallet and a fistful of credit cards, having ascertained that

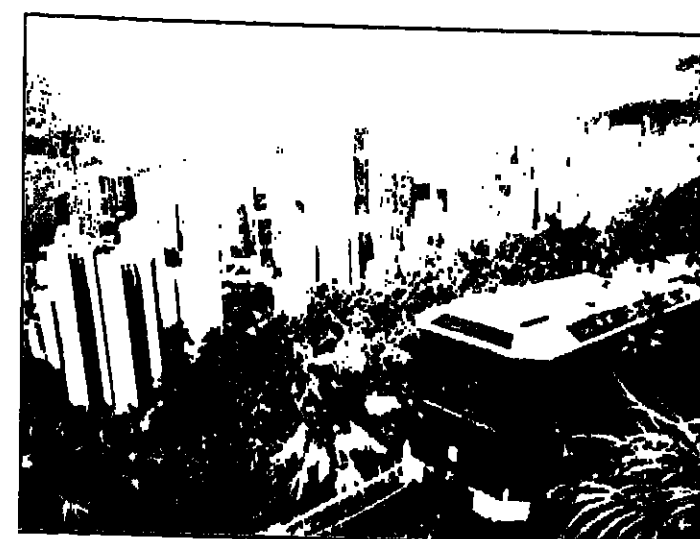


Bird's eye view of the business district

Hong Hong is no longer the bargain-basement shoppers' paradise that it was long reputed to be. Far better, these days, a camera from 47th Street Photo in New York than from somewhere in Tsim Sha Tsui or off Wyndham Street; far better to go to Singapore for jewels, to Bangkok for silks, to Taipei for chin-neries.

Buying a 24-hour suit, or getting a bargain carved from jade, or being pulled around town in what is properly called a jinrickshaw are not on the itinerary. All of these delights have long since vanished from the real Hong Kong - though not quite yet from the come-ons of the tourist board.

The unique combination of the Cantonese dedication to hard work and profit and the British dedication to probity and personal freedom has allowed Hong Kong's residents to pursue their favoured pastime - the making of money - with less interference from above than almost anywhere else on Earth. It is a relationship that has been central to the stunning economic success



Hong Kong bay as seen from the peak tram

of Hong Kong - a success out of all proportion to its minuscule size.

Finding people who speak good English is less easy than it was. Efficiency, once paramount, is taking a hammering. Service - a legendary feature of the great hotels here, such as the Peninsula - is no longer the impeccable archetype. "It is becoming - how can I say? - more like China," remarked a friend, returning here after five years away.

Nonetheless, much of Hong Kong's surface charm remains the same - except that those who live here wonder for how long. Take, for example, The Races.

The Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club, which has two splendid and easily accessible racetracks, is officially set up as a non-profit organisation, and the income belting - greater than the gross national product of a fair number of modest-sized countries - is spent on hospitals, schools, even an immense amusement park (with the biggest roller coaster and longest escalator in the East, a school of performing dolphins, a log flume and a butterfly zoo).

Wednesday night racing at Happy Valley, with all the excitement that comes from watching Hong Kong's millionaires losing more money on a race than you earn in a year, is conducted against a backdrop cascade of a hundred thousand window lights and would be a remarkable phenomenon in any setting.

The Peak Tram is part of the essence of Imperial England, too. Known as the High Level Tramway, it is more than a century old and was the first cable railway in Asia. And being by far the steepest, it induces near-vertigo in first-time users. It takes you to a vantage point near the summit of Victoria Peak from which you can spy the whole marvel of the colony's harbour and the skyscrapers from Central to Causeway Bay on Hong Kong Island, and the less tall (because of the airport) but no less impressive structures that stand on the far shorefront of Kowloon.

Some things about Hong Kong - many things, in truth - will never change. These are the immutable Chinese aspects of the place, aspects that have survived all manner of regimes and wars.

The song-bird restaurants, for example, where old men bring their caged swallows each breakfast-time to let them sing their tiny hearts out with the dawn. The legions of performers of tai-chi-chuan, the slow-motion ballet that made most Chinese fit

present the stereotypically Chinese face of the territory - a face of unquestionable charm and plausibility, but not, it has to be said, one that is uniquely and peculiarly Hong Kong. You will find dim sum and caged birds and lung shui masters in Guangzhou (Canton that was) and Dalian and Xiamen and Kunming, too.

So, along with tai chi, get invited to tiffin in the Hong Kong Club - if you happen to run into a member. After the birdsong, stroll the reaches of Bowen Road below the old Military Hospital one evening and breathe in the ghosts of old England. Instead of the taxi to the Wanchai noodle stands, rattle down to Western on an old Glasgow-built double-decker tram. Go off to see a game of rugby or watch them fire the noonday gun - immortalised in Noel Coward's "Mad Dogs and Englishmen" - across from the Excelsior Hotel.

Do all these things; then, on your final day stand by the little British police station at Man Kam To, close by the border and gaze northward, over the distant hills of the mainland, and marvel. Marvel at how, if only briefly in the scheme of things, a tiny part of Europe managed to hold on to a tiny part of China and helped to make it something quite extraordinary - the glittering, fantastical result of an experiment in social and political engineering that is like nowhere else on earth.



When the flags change, who will be in charge?

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THE STAR 17

A slice of French Satire

By Vanessa Batrouni
Special to The Star

THE IMMEDIACY of French cafe theatre was brought to the Amman state on Saturday evening at the Studio Theatre of the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC). "Tranches de Vies" (Slices of Life) was performed expertly by four newcomers: French students Sumar Chaaban, Amman Kayyali, Inas Nammani and French cultural teacher Philippe Bec under the masterly guidance of their director Oliver Roche who also performed.

Cafe theatre, devoid of set and played with minimal props is totally reliant on the energy and physical presence of its actors. Espousing the medium with great confidence, the actors took risks with their voices and bodies, giving the audience a full and colourful range of characters which they drew with bold strokes and performed with larger-than-life reality.

The comic tone of the evening was set by Monsieur Roche with a microphone gag that requires good vocal and physical projection, two qualities which he and his fellow actors continued to exercise throughout the evening. The opening was followed by disconnected sketches which were linked by musical excerpts

that picked up the last threads of the preceding scene and introduced the next.

Although lighthearted, clownish and often verging on the absurd, the sketches like most satirical comedy held an underlying

seriousness. The sketches moved from a grotesque babyhood to a grotesque old age passing through commentaries on male and female relationships and an analytic discussion on tragedy which concluded that existence

Theatre REVIEW

was the problem. The sketches, all but one taken from well known French authors, seek to destroy the image we have of ourselves by exposing our ludicrous behaviour. In "Dialogues Puériles" two small children compete in their violent nastiness, while the man in "Le Vrai Homme" is reduced to a quiver-

ing nothingness by his imaginary Marguerite.

The high point of the evening was "La Finale", a piece created by Roche. Bec who had already shown good physical presence, timing and flexible characterisation as the psychiatrist in "Consultation Tragique" came into his own as the caricature Frenchman playing tennis with a French loaf opposite Roche. Here as in all the sketches the use of mime and facial expression as comic devices was fully exploited by the two actors.

Language was abandoned in favour of gibberish which threw us deeper into the absurd and gave free range of vocal colour.

The assemblage of the sketches could have been tighter and some editing would have benefited the enjoyment and comfort of the audience, but length did not detract from the general brilliance of the evening's entertainment. For first timers Chaaban to act with the freedom and emotional range he had in "Le Vrai Homme", and Nammani and Kayyali to handle lengthy monologues with unflattering gusto and above all Bec to display such a superb sense of theatre can only be attributed to their director Roche whose zany personality pervaded all their performances.



Talking to Amigo Hikmat

Currently in Jordan on a working visit is the widely heard Monte Carlo Radio Star, 'Amigo' Hikmat Wahba, broadcaster of several live shows on the Paris-based Franco-Arabe radio station.

Amigo Hikmat, so called by his fans, is also a singer, cinema and television actor, as well as a host of variety shows. "All my programmes are broadcast live," says Hikmat, "and I present, direct, and produce them all without previous preparation." He believes in the spontaneity of productions and the honesty of presentation. "I never talk to my listeners, but I talk with them," the Lebanese born artist says.

Hikmat, 38, who has worked for Monte Carlo station for the past 15 years is the host of 'Mirsal Al Hawa', a 4-hour live programme of phone messages. He also presents several other shows, including pop hits, talk shows, as well as a special weekly programme on the animal world. "Animals are God's creatures, and we have to protect them," he says.

Commenting on the station for which he worked for many years, Hikmat says that the reason behind Monte Carlo's popularity is its freedom. "All our programmes are live on the air for the service of Arabs around the world." The station is also accredited for its news credibility and is popular among the youth for its pop hits and up-to-date programmes it presents.

Mr Wahba is currently in Jordan for the shooting of a variety show "Nujum" (stars) directed by Hasib Youssef and hosted by him. Expected to be shown on



'Amigo' Hikmat: A man of many talents

Jordan TV in October this year, the programme will host personalities in arts, sports and medicine Egyptian Nobel prize laureate, Ragheb Alama (Lebanese singer), Adnan Buzo, (Syrian commentator), Jordanian poet and writer Haider Mahmoud, and many others "who will remain a surprise" according to Hikmat.

As in his previous Nujum shows Hikmat is keen on presenting viewers "with the all that is new" in music, books and films.

Also the last episode will be full of surprises and "fresh" scenes, some of which will reveal previous shooting blunders, and an interview with the director, whom Hikmat says, "is a star in his own right."

Hasib Youssef, he adds, "is a dynamic director who is loved

and respected around the Arab world."

Wahba, who had previously filmed "Nujum 1983", and "Nujum 1985", in Jordan, says that he "loves Jordan, its food and its people very much."

After the shooting - expected to end during the coming few days - he intend to spend some time in Aqaba to enjoy the sun and the sea.

Hikmat thanked his fans who phoned him at the studio and at the hotel to express their good wishes and compliments. He apologised to those who have asked to see him, but were let down. "I really have a very busy schedule," he regrets. But he promised to meet as many requests as possible next time he comes to Jordan.

Frida Jerys

Agenda

May at 8.00 pm.

Lectures

Films

● The American Centre presents the feature film "Death of a Salesman", starring Dustin Hoffman, Thursday 31 May at 7 pm.

● The Spanish Cultural Centre presents the feature film "Tata Mia" starring Imperio Argentina, Monday 4 June at 10.30 am.

● A Turkish film on "The Colourful World of Turkish Naive Painting" will be shown at the Alia Arts Gallery, Thursday 31 May at 6.30 pm.

Dance Shows

● Jeune Ballet de France will perform at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) on Thursday 31

Trips

● Friends of Archaeology will organise a trip to Tell El-Fukhar on Friday 1 June.

● AS PART of their overall new schedule policy, Cyprus Airways (CY) will be introducing as from next June three new destinations, namely Amman, Heraklion and Rhodes.

Amman will be served by three weekly flights while Heraklion and Rhodes with one and two weekly flights respectively.

To look after their interests in Jordan, Cyprus Airways appointed Petra Travel and Tourism Co. as their general sales agents. A Cyprus Airways delegation is visiting Jordan for the purpose of promoting the new services. In parallel the Cyprus Airways delegation will be making the necessary contacts with travel, trade and other relevant organisations for establishing the necessary infrastructure for the operation.

The Cyprus delegation will include: Mr Michael Hewitt, chief executive officer (CY), Mr Panikos Papadakis, director commercial operations (CY), Mr John Marathellis, assistant traffic manager (CY), Mr Andreas Ioannidis, agency and interline superintendent, Mrs Phryne Michael, director general Cyprus tourism Organisation and Mr Andreas Georgiades, senior air traffic control officer for the department of civil aviation.

products such as vacation ownership resorts.

By the end of 1989, Marriott ran 539 hotels with more than 134,000 rooms, making it the world's largest operator of hotel rooms. The company has led the industry in awards for excellence in group meeting service, as well as consistently receiving more top Mobil and AAA awards than any other chain. It also offers the most diverse product line and a strong lead in customer preference.

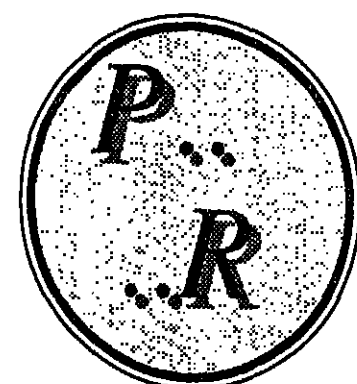
The total business is a large and fragmented industry with worldwide sales of around \$150 billion, including \$50 billion in the US. Real growth is around four to five per cent a year. Marriott has approximately seven per cent of the US market and less than a three per cent share of the total world market.

● STARTING FROM 2 June, Alitalia is launching a new flight Rome-Amman-Rome, scheduled to leave every Saturday and Tuesday at 12:50 am and arriving in Amman at 5:55 pm. The new services will be in favour of the Jordanian market because Amman will be the turn around point of the aircraft.

The attack on tourists that took place in Amman last week will not affect former bookings by Italian tourists according to Alitalia sources. No cancellations were made so far.

"We are dedicated to selling Jordan tourist packages and we see no change in this policy," says Mr Francesco Fiorani, Alitalia's general manager for Jordan.

"We see no change in the number of Italian tourists coming to Jordan," he said.



Marriott... ten years of growth springboard to global domination

● MARRIOTT CORPORATION chalked up a decade of extraordinary expansion during the 1980s, growing five-fold and becoming a leader in nearly all its key businesses. This was accomplished while consistently maintaining return on equity above 20 per cent.

Sales rose by 14 per cent to over \$7.5 billion during the fiscal year 1989, when Marriott sold off its airline catering division and took other steps to streamline its organisation in preparation for the 1990s. Return on equity during the year was 24 per cent.

Marriott became world leader in its two core business — lodging and contract services — during the 1980s. At the start of the decade, the company operated or franchised 65 hotels with around 26,000 rooms, all in the full-service market. Since 1980, it has developed or acquired products in three other major segments and added related niche

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Programmes of Jordan Television from 2 June to 8 June



Surgical Spirit, Saturday at 8:30 pm

ENGLISH PROGRAMME

SATURDAY

8:30 - Surgical Spirit. (comedy). 9:00 - Encounter hosted by Rami Khouri.

9:30 - Musical programme.

10:00 - News in English.

10:20 - Feature Film (Hot-Shot) starring Jim Young and Pele: Jim is a young man who's very keen on football and who's only one desire is to become a major international football player, but there are obstacles in the way and Pele helps him overcome them.

SUNDAY

8:30 - Who's the Boss (Comedy).

9:10 - Horizon - Oil Spill (Documentary): Every time a supertanker discharges its load into the sea angry questions are asked about the effects on the environment. The worst case was when the supertanker Exxon Valdez struck a reef off the coast of Alaska in March 1989.

10:00 - News in English. 10:20 - Agatha Christie Plot. (The Adventure of the Western Star): The Tatler is full of the news of the rival diamonds belonging to Lady Yardley and Mario Marville. But when both owners receive threatening letters Plot finds himself involved in more than society scandal.

MONDAY

8:30 - Perfect Strangers (Comedy).

9:10 - Fifa Soccer. 10:00 - News in English. 10:20 - Blind Faith: Robert, it turns out, has taken out insurance on his wife for the value of \$1.5 million on the same day, she got killed, and later it is revealed that he wasn't rich after all... he quits the house and contemplates suicide.

TUESDAY

8:30 - Charles in charge (Comedy).

9:10 - A Horseman Riding By: The people at the valley rush to join the army thinking the war

will not last for long. 10:00 - News in English. 10:20 - In the Heat of the night (Intruders): Elderly citizens are being beaten and robbed, and the investigation is complicated by Virgil's injured back and his visiting in-laws.

WEDNESDAY

8:30 - Golden Girls (Comedy). 9:10 - The Nuclear Age (Europe Goes Nuclear): The US monopolised the atomic bomb technology and even denied Britain access to it. Britain developed its own, the French followed suit and with the formation of NATO and Warsaw military alliances the number of nuclear heads in Europe increased.

10:00 - News in English. 10:20 - Hemingway: The continuing life story of America's greatest writer.

THURSDAY

8:30 - The Cosby Show (comedy).

9:10 - NBA Basketball. 10:20 - Movie of the Week. (The Reluctant Agent Inc.) Starring Richard Lawson, Charlene and Linda are twin sisters and since they are so different, they decide to switch roles, poor Linda gets entangled in a spying game and helps nail drugs dealer Gabriel down.

FRIDAY

8:30 - Did's Comedy Show. 9:10 - Beauty and the Beast: Vincent is still haunted by the disappearance of his son. To get a glimpse of him, he does something drastic... he surrenders to his enemies. 10:00 - News in English. 10:20 - Quincy (For love of Joshua): A pediatrician is a firm believer in the right of every born child regardless of physical deformities to live. Quincy supports wholeheartedly.

FRENCH PROGRAMME

SATURDAY

8:50 - Le Monde Est à Vous: A

variety programme. Presented by Jacques Martin. This week's guest is Demis Roussos. 7:00 - News in French. 7:15 - Aujourd'hui en France: A cultural magazine.

SUNDAY

5:50 - Tel Pere Tel Film: A comedy series. 6:15 - L'ecole des Fans: A children's programme. 7:00 - News in French. 7:15 - French varieties.

MONDAY

6:00 - Terres d'Espoir: A new documentary on Africa and South Asia. 7:00 - News in French. 7:15 - The Weekly Sports Magazine.

TUESDAY

6:20 - Des Chiffres et des Lettres: A game show. 6:40 - Tel Pere Tel Film: A comedy series. 7:00 - News in French. 7:15 - Aujourd'hui en Jordanie: A local magazine by Saleh Madi.

WEDNESDAY

6:00 - Panique aux Caraïbes: A drama series. 7:00 - News in French. 7:15 - Les Meandres de L'eau: A documentary.

THURSDAY

5:40 - Mollerissimo (6): A children's programme. 6:10 - Des Chiffres et des Lettres: A game show. 6:30 - La Chance aux Chansons: A variety programme. 7:00 - News in French. 7:15 - French varieties.

FRIDAY

5:23 - Le Conte de Monte Cristo (1): A feature film by Louis Jourdan who plays the role of Edmond Dantes. 7:00 - News in French. 7:15 - Portraits d'Alain Cavallier (La repasseuse): A documentary.

ROGER EBERT: ON MOVIES

'Miami blues'

RATING:★★

Fred Frenger Alec Baldwin
Sgt. Hoke Moseley Fred Ward
Susie Waggoner Jennifer Jason Leigh
Ellia Sanchez Nora Dunn
Sgt. Bill Henderson Charles Napier

THEY'RE LOOKING for the right tone in "Miami Blues," and they don't find it very often, but when they do, you can see what they were looking for.

The movie wants to be an off-centre comedy, a lopsided cops-and-robbers movie where everybody has a few screws loose. But so much love is devoted to creating who wacko loonies in the cast that we're left with a set of personality profiles, not characters.

The film stars Alec Baldwin, fresh from "The Hunt for Red October," as Fred Frenger, ex-con who has just arrived in Miami looking for a fresh start. He gets started off on the wrong foot. At the airport, he's approached by a Hare Krishna, and he bends the guy's finger back until it breaks. Not nice, especially since the cult member dies of shock.

Frenger is a thief, con man and cheat. He is also incredibly reckless and will get himself into situations a dopey high-school kid would know enough to avoid. He wanders through the world looking for suitcases to steal, wallets to lift, identification papers he can use. Nothing much is planned, and most of his jobs depend on sheer blind luck. One piece of luck, sort of, is when he meets Susie, a hooker played by Jennifer Jason Leigh. She's a student working her way through school, and she isn't very bright.

Fred Ward is Sgt. Hoke Moseley, assigned to the case. His life is composed of equal parts of indignation, alimony and bureaucracy. Some simple-minded detective work leads him to Frenger. Fred and Susie, now living together, invite him to dinner and he stays gratefully, eating their chops and drinking their beer and belching cheerfully. He figures maybe Frenger broke the Hare Krishna's fingers but didn't mean to kill him, and, truth to tell, he isn't very worked up over the case—not until Frenger visits his hotel room, beats him senseless and steals his badge, gun and false teeth. That's going too far.

Armed with identification as a cop, Frenger turns into a loose cannon, free-lancing all over town. He busts up robberies, steals from previous victims, flashes his badge and takes advantage of that split-second of doubt and guilt that's felt by the average citizen when anybody flashes a badge. And then the situation escalates as Frenger stupidly gets into more and more trouble, and Susie—who was never a very good hooker, but has convinced herself she could be a good wife—slowly realises she is living with a very dangerous man.

The actors struggle manfully with their roles. Baldwin, who is good at playing intelligence, is not so good here at playing an ex-con with a screw loose. Fred Ward does a better job with the police sergeant in movies like this and the underrated "UFO" he sits back and takes everything and plays the cynic who will only really bother you if you really bother him. Jennifer Jason Leigh is another actress who has an easier time of playing smart (as she did in "Heart of Darkness") than playing dumb. In "Miami Blues," I think she plays too dumb—so dumb that even the characters begin commenting on how she doesn't pick up on every little thing.

The movie was written and directed by George Armitage and produced by Jonathan Demme. Both are graduates of the Roger Corman low-budget exploitation assembly line of the 1960s, when Armitage directed "Private Duty Nurses" while Demme was writing "Angels Hard as they Come." Demme has since gone on to develop his own idiosyncratic and likable directing style in movies like "Married to the Mob" and "Something Wild." The problem is, Demme can do those movies but most people can't—and there are stretches where "Miami Blues" plays like a Demme film with sprung rhythm.

MINI VIEWS

"THE FORBIDDEN DANCE" (RCA/Columbia). That dance happens to be the lambada, in case you weren't aware of the competition earlier this year between two films about it. This one has something of a social conscience, since it's about a dancer (Laura Herring) who wants to win a contest and use a TV appearance to make a pitch for rain-forest preservation. Seriously.

"HARLEM NIGHTS" (Paramount) Eddie Murphy does just about everything in this Depression-era action-comedy... serving as star, director, writer and executive producer. He and Richard Pryor play a father-son duo who dodge bullets while resisting mob attempts to take over their nightclub. Redd Foxx, Della Reese and Arsenio Hall also appear.

THE STAR 19

US Sports Round Up

SPORTS FROM THE PRESSBOX

By Lee Lerner

Many players are still corking their bats, and even more must still be doctoring the ball, but according to baseball's ruling party, the real outlaws of the 1990 season are those carrying oversized gloves.

This year, umpires have been ordered to crack down on players using illegal gloves — that is mitts measuring larger than 12 inches from the heel to the tip of the web.

A glove that's deemed too big by the men in blue is to be removed from the game and repeated offenses by a player reportedly will bring disciplinary action by the league.

It's almost too ridiculous to believe. How petty can baseball get? Every year it finds something different to harp on. In years past it's been the bulk rule, the sandpaper ball or the amount of pine tar on the bats. Now the umps are carrying tape measures.

Predictably, the glove mandate has been met with negative tones. "It's a picky rule. I've never heard of anything like it," New York Mets outfielder Kevin McReynolds said. "I guess pretty soon we'll be playing with batting gloves on. I'm definitely against it."

Cincinnati Reds outfielder

Herm Winningham echoed those sentiments.

"I've been using my glove for five years," Winningham said. "Now all of a sudden they're messing with my livelihood."

But if the sport holds to form, players won't have to worry for too long about the crackdown. That's because next year baseball's brass will be too busy looking into how high a player should be allowed to wear his socks.

SPORTSLINE

By Dale Dunlap

The name "Dewey" brings to mind Thomas Dewey, who almost beat Harry Truman for the presidency, or one of Donald Duck's zany nephews. But in Boston there is only one Dewey.

He is Dwight Evans, who is in his 18th season with the Red Sox. The fact he is still there is a story in itself, because Evans suffered a severe back injury last year. The slight stress fracture in his back forced Evans from his familiar digs in right field to a designated-hitter role.

The same back condition recurred in spring training and the Red Sox were worried their spiritual leader would not be able to play again.

But after some tests on his back, Evans played the last two exhibition games and promptly swatted



a three-run double in his first at-bat of the season. He hasn't stopped there.

Should he continue to hit 20 or more home runs and drive in 100 or more runs for two or three years, they might have to put him in the Hall of Fame.

Evans, always noted for his great defense, is one of those rare players who has hit better in his 30s than he did in his 20s. He averaged .268 with 17 home runs and 55 RBIs his first 12 seasons, but has averaged .283 with 27 home runs and 102 RBIs in the last six seasons.

He also is the current leader

among all active players in home runs. And he has done it in a quiet, workmanlike manner with no complaints about his contracts or managers. It's no wonder Red Sox fans have bestowed their "favorite" tag on him after Carl Yastrzemski retired.

Evans refuses to talk about the Hall of Fame until he retires. He thinks that concentrating on his job leaves little time for reflection. "I'd like to play two more years and take it from there," he said.

But, despite his humility, you can take it to the bank: Dewey will make the Hall of Fame. (And we aren't talking about the politician or the duck.)

TOP VIDEO RENTALS

1. Look Who's Talking, John Travolta, Kristie Alley, RCA/Columbia Home Video (PG-13-1989)
2. Dead Poet Society, Robin Williams, Touchstone Home Video (PG-1989)
3. Field of Dreams, Kevin Costner, Amy Madigan, MCA Home Video, (PG-1989)
4. The Abyss, Ed Harris, Mary McCormack, CBS-Fox Video (PG-13-1989)
5. Sea of Love, Al Pacino, Ellen Barkin, MCA/Universal Home Video (R-1989)
6. Honey, I Shrunk the Kids, Rick Moranis, Walt Disney Home Video, (PG-1989)
7. Parenthood, Steve Martin, Dianne Wiest, MCA/Universal (PG-13-1989)
8. Innocent Man, Tom Selleck, Touchstone Home Video (R-1989)
9. Black Rain, Michael Douglas, Andy Garcia, Paramount Home Video (R-1989)
10. Casualties of War, Michael J. Fox, Sean Penn, RCA/Columbia (R-1989)

TOP POP ALBUMS

1. I Do Not Want What I Haven't Got, Sinead O'Connor, Ensign
2. Brigade, Heart, Capitol
3. Janet Jackson's Rhythm Nation 1814, Janet Jackson, A&M
4. Please Hammer Don't Hurt 'Em, M.C. Hammer, Capitol
5. Nick of Time, Bonnie Raitt, Capitol
6. Soul Provider, Michael Bolton, Columbia
7. Violator, Depeche Mode, Sire
8. Affection, Lisa Stansfield, Arista
9. Forever Your Girl, Paula Abdul, Virgin
10. Polson, Bell Biv DeVoe, MCA

TOP POP SINGLES

1. Nothing Compares 2 U, Sinéad O'Connor, Ensign
2. Vaghe, Madonna, Warner Bros.
3. I Wanna Be Rich, Calogary, Solar
4. How Can We Be Lovers, Michael Bolton, Columbia
5. All I Wanna Do Is Make Love to You, Heart, Capitol
6. Alright, Janet Jackson, A&M
7. Sending All My Love, Lita, Atlantic
8. Hold On, Wilson Phillips, SBK
9. Polson, Bell Biv DeVoe, MCA
10. What It Takes, Aerobics, Geffen

TOP COUNTRY ALBUMS

1. Pickin' On Nashville, The Kentucky Headhunters, Mercury
2. Killin' Time, Clint Black, RCA
3. RSV III, Ricky Van Shelton, Columbia
4. Highwayman 2, Willie, Waylon, Johnny & Kris, Columbia
5. Country Club, Travis Tritt, Warner Bros.
6. Here in the Real World, Alan Jackson, Arista
7. No Holdin' Back, Randy Travis, Warner Bros.
8. Lone Wolf, Hank Williams Jr., Warner Bros.
9. Leave the Lights On, Lorrie Morgan, RCA
10. East Movin' Train, Restless Heart, RCA

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Crossword Puzzle

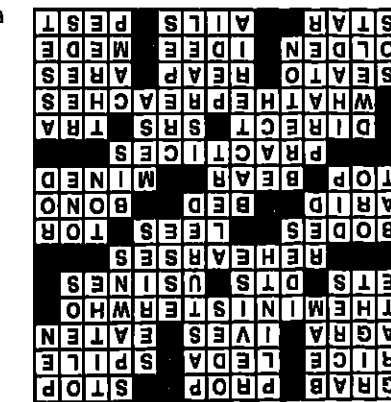
ACROSS

1. Catch
2. Pop up
3. Dressing
4. Jupiter's
5. Maple
6. Pianist
7. Partner
8. Heart
9. Quip
10. Avignon
11. Trouble
12. Fifties
13. Part II
14. Friends
15. High
16. Anderson play
17. Pad
18. Palm Springs
19. Roman date
20. Being
21. Cover (children's game)
22. Raid warning
23. Belly occupant
24. Pizarro's quest
25. Pickpocket
26. Heavy weight
27. Bill passed regularly
28. If spared, it spoils
29. One-celled microorganisms
30. Encore!
31. Type of lace

DOWN

32. Apiece
33. Tableland
34. Famous Vienna park
35. Baline (living Berlin)
36. Delicate
37. Pancakes
38. Reskilled
39. Little pony
40. Unlucky number on a match
41. Bulrushes
42. Plus item
43. Foot Comb. form
44. Conny
45. Mayday's cousin

Solution



Jordan Bridge

By Ghassan Ghanem

Hobson's choice

Looking at both west and east cards, what contract do you like to be in? 6♠, 6♥ or 6N?

(East)
♠ AQJ987
♥ AQ105
♦ AQJ9
♣ AQ105

West came last month during a Sunday duplicate Jordan Bridge Association.

West hand does not qualify for 2♠ opening, but a 2♥ was opened 2♠.

3♠(1)
3♥(2)
3♦(3)
3♣(3)

West should have realized that East held five spades and hearts. And he should have known that partner held any king.

Higher score of 6N does not justify playing the 6♥ trump with a double fit in both majors and a 6♠ ace with high probability of diamond tricks. East should hold some clubs.

Very tricky decision, though. West faced a "tut" defense and made his contract for undeserved respect.

West opened with the right opening bid:
1♠
2♥
3♠(2)
4♥
5♦

Reverse bid, 1♠ or more points.
North suit, forcing (3) Blackwood

West showed the spade preference on his third bid and all the way to 7♠. The lay of the cards was such that the declarer handled the contract carefully and an undeserved top.

West opened another normal 1♠ opening:

1♠
2♥
3♠
4♥
5♦

Aware of the fact that 4-4 fit would play better than 5-3, west settled for the (best) contract.

Before going on, how are you going to play the contract after the killing lead of the ♠8?

Back to the bidding, here is a suggested sequence to bid this difficult hand:

1♠
2♥
3♠(1)
4♥(1)
5♦(1)
6♠(1)

(1) Splitter, diamond single or void and heart fit.

(2) Cue bid (3) Cue bid bypassing the 4NT level to show one or three of the three top honors of the agreed upon suit, hearts. (4) Diamond void.

West knowing about the missing heart top honor and the diamond void prefers to play 6♠ giving partner the advantage of getting the lead to the club tenace (partner should have additional values in clubs otherwise where are his points?).

And now 6♠ is an almost unbeatable "pepa mama" slam.

Back to the 6♥ contract, Marwan Ghanem won with the ♠A and played a small heart to the ten and lost to the jack.

North played back another club (nothing better), ♠Q from dummy covered by the King and ruffed.

Marwan played ♠Q trying to tempt North to cover but ruffed when he didn't.

THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

By Joyce Jillson

Weekly Tip: Moon in Cancer helps you get right with loved ones. Be nurturing without smothering them. Moon in Leo is full of marvelous heart energy.

Aries (March 21-April 19) Unconscious facts determine much of your actions. Listen to your inner voice. Taurus (April 20-May 20) You may have lots to say. Excellent judgment. Wednesday is fab for love affairs.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) Know your worth this week. It could mean more money in the bank. Monday may find you travelling.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) Sunday is great for rejuvenating your aching muscles. Moon in Virgo stimulate your excellent productivity.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) Unexpressed emotions could hold you back. Don't push too hard for what you want. Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Moon in Cancer can bring wonderful sharing with friends who are like family. Dates can be expensive during the weekend.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Get straight in your mind your top priority career goals. A loving weekend ahead. Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21) Good family relations make you feel better about life. Good relationships develop.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Joint financial matters are improving. Excellent business ideas. Establish better relations with career colleagues.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Give yourself time to unwind — you need it. Love comes to you when you are willing to please.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Your emotions can be your best guide this week. Enjoy your activities, but keep a low profile.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) You have the energy to put more fun in your life. Rest a little. A merry weekend — romantic.

If You Were Born This Week

Happy Birthday Gemini! Something of your past could be reactivated this month. Tie things up in a nice bundle.

MAGICWORD

HOW TO PLAY: Read the list of words. Look at the puzzle. You'll find these words in all directions — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, backwards. Draw a circle around each letter of a word found in the puzzle, then strike it off the list. Circling it will show a letter has been used but will leave it visible should it also form part of another word. Find the big words first. When letters of all listed words are circled, you'll have the given number of letters left over. They'll spell out your MAGICWORD.

CHARGE IT! (Sol.: 10 letters)

A-Account, American Express, Amount, Authorization; B-Balance, Bank, Benefits, Bill; C-Charges, Classic, Code, Copy, Cost, Credit, Customer; D-Data, Discover, Due date; E-Expenses; F-Financial; G-Gold, Goods; I-Interest, Issuer; L-Limit; M-Member; N-Number; P-Payment, Plastic, Purchases; R-Rate, Receipt; S-Sign, Slip, Spend; T-Total; U-Unique; V-Valid, Visa

This Week's Answer: MASTERCARD

SESAHCRUPBEDRRT
SPCHARGESI TREEO
ECESKECNALABCVT
RFINANCI ALDMEOA
PVATDUNI QUEAICL
XBRPSAEDOCUSPSE
EBEIRATCREDTIC
NNMLIALAMOUNTDT
ABOSSATPREBMEBS
CFTDSNSESNEPXE
IISOUGOYNUMBERR
RTUOEICPAYMENTE
ESCGRSGLDILAVT
MCISALCTIMILTN
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31 MAY 1990

WORD WISE

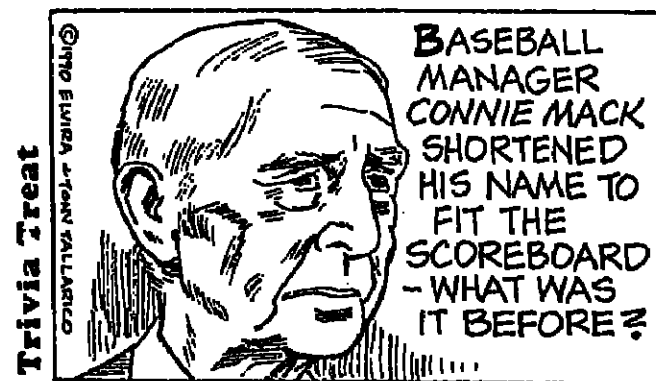
Q. Where did the saying "He's barking up the wrong tree" come from? Where was it first used?

A. This is an American phrase that refers to a hunting dog used in the pursuit of raccoons. Raccoons are nocturnal animals and when chased will climb a tree. Hunting dogs are trained to wait at the foot of the tree until the master arrives to take over. But as you know,

dogs are not nocturnal creatures, and have been known to sit down in front of the wrong tree. The expression came about in the 19th century and became popularized by writers of early American western life, such as David Crockett. Today, it means to be on the wrong course.

Send questions or comments for Word Wise to P.O. Box 4367, Orlando, Fla. 32802-4367.

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NAME THE FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE U.S. TO BE BORN IN A HOSPITAL!

ON WHAT DAYTIME QUIZ SHOW DID JOHNNY CARSON FIRST TEAM UP WITH ED McMAHON?

ANS: CORNELIUS WAGGILUPPY - JIMMY CARTER
WHO DO YOU TRUST? - 1955

31 MAY 1990

JULI YAM ILE

